



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-043
Monday
8 March 1993

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Cuba

Country Alleges United States Violates Human Rights

PA0503162693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
1300 GMT 5 mar 93

[Text] Cuba has asked the 49th UN Human Rights Commission assembly in Geneva, Switzerland to act against the flagrant human rights violations perpetrated by the United States and other developed countries.

The Cuban delegation challenged the United States to follow the example Cuba set in 1988 when it asked the UN Human Rights Commission to appoint a delegation to verify the situation on the Caribbean island.

Ambassador Jose Perez Novoa, Cuba's representative in Geneva, expressed the country's position on 4 March. He said if there are insufficient votes within the Commission to condemn the U.S. violations, the United States should dispel doubts regarding human rights in that country by inviting specialists on the subject to the country as Cuba has done in the past.

Perez Novoa provided ample information on human rights violations in the United States and indicated the need for the UN Human Rights Commission to further investigate the U.S. case and its effects on other countries like Puerto Rico, a colonial enclave, and its more recent actions against the Somali people, against whom it has implemented the so-called right to humanitarian intervention.

Alarcon Points Out Anti-Cuban Double Standard

FL0603004293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2047 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, during a news conference held in Havana on 5 March, highlighted the double standard employed by countries that support, within the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the report against Cuba sponsored by the United States. Alarcon pointed out that the 18 countries endorsing that anti-Cuban document—17 European and 1 African, Gambia—are exhibiting a double standard by indicting Cuba unjustly while hushing up and deliberately passing over in silence their own systematic, massive, and flagrant violations of human rights.

Alarcon used as examples the denunciations made by the International Labor Organization against countries that, all together, exploit the labor of 200 million children; or the case of racial persecution. Alarcon reiterated that Cuba will not accept the presence of any rapporteur on our territory.

Commentary on Human Rights Meeting in Geneva

PA0603041793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission meetings in the Swiss city of Geneva have become the permanent site for the ideological confrontation between Cuba and the United States. The 49th session of this UN organization is in its final days. These days have been reserved by the White House and its associates [instrumentos] to highlight the so-called Cuban case.

The United States has a record full of human rights violations. Juan A. Silvera, member of the Cuban delegation at the Geneva meeting, touched a sensitive issue when he referred to the double standard of the United States regarding the asylum issue.

The State Department usually grants visas to Cubans wishing to emigrate to the nation to the north at a very slow pace and in a selective and whimsical manner to create uneasiness on the island. This, according to Washington, could lead to open opposition against the revolution.

While the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba is denying visas en masse—even to those formerly imprisoned for committing crimes against the state under CIA encouragement—the U.S. authorities are welcoming with fanfare deserters and renegades who hijack ships and planes to leave the island illegally.

Washington is displaying a diametrically different attitude toward Haitians trying to reach the Florida coastline to seek employment and escape military repression. Haitians are being denied this possibility and are being forced to continue facing hunger and terror in their country. They delay visas for Cubans who formerly served those who destabilized the revolutionary government, while deserters and hijackers are receiving a hero's welcome.

In reading the universal human rights declaration, we realize the United States is manipulating the asylum concept to the point that (Richard Sistep), loquacious U.S. ambassador at the Geneva meeting, was unable to offer a coherent explanation.

Provincial Assemblies Formed on 7 Mar

FL0803005293

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 7 March report that the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government were formed throughout Cuba on 7 March.

In Pinar del Rio Province, the 77 newly seated assembly delegates elected the assembly president and vice president through a direct and secret ballot. Jose Marrero

Camacho was elected president, and Danilo Abrantes Cabrera was elected vice president.

In Guantanamo Province, (Ryder Diaz Leiva) was elected president of the provincial assembly, and Ramon Hernandez Fiffe was elected vice president. The Guantanamo Provincial Assembly has 75 members, 74 of whom voted for president and vice president. One delegate was absent because of illness.

In Havana Province, the 75-member provincial assembly elected Iran Gonzalez president and Oscar Marti vice president.

Further on Assemblies

FL0803123293

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 8 March reports on the 7 March formation of the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government and the election of assembly officers.

In Havana City Province, Pedro Chavez Gonzalez was elected president of the provincial assembly by the 139 delegates present, and Rogelio Milian was elected vice president.

In Matanzas Province, the 76 provincial assembly delegates elected Oswaldo Gutierrez Suarez president and Rodolfo Martinez Arandia vice president. Moraima Villaurrutia Portillo was elected assembly secretary.

In Villa Clara Province, with 79 of the 81 delegates to the new provincial assembly present, (Miguel Cruz Perez) was elected president and Armando Diaz Olivera, a civil engineer, vice president. (Roberto Madegil) was chosen to be assembly secretary.

In Cienfuegos Province, Jose Hernandez Bernardo was elected president and Daniel Diaz Andrade was elected vice president. This assembly has 76 delegates.

In Sancti Spiritus Province, Deputy Omar Guevara was elected provincial assembly president and Alicia Cleto Diaz was elected vice president. (Chita Lonito Perez) was chosen as secretary.

In Ciego de Avila Province, (Eduardnindo Jimenez Castaneda) was elected assembly president and Rafael Gonzalez Ramos vice president.

In Camaguey Province, 76 provincial assembly delegates elected (Eli Blas Gonzalez) president and (Orlando Burras Olivar) vice president.

In Holguin Province, 103 delegates elected (Niberto Dominguez Gonzalez) president and Alberto Olivera Fis vice president.

In Las Tunas Province, the 75-member provincial assembly elected Julian Lopez Hernandez president and (Francisco Grave de Peralte) vice president. Jorge Mas-trapa Gutierrez was designated assembly secretary.

In Granma Province, the 82-member provincial assembly elected Kafeel Dominguez president and Guillermo Rodriguez vice president. Jorge Carlos Limia was elected secretary.

In Santiago de Cuba Province, the ceremony to form the provincial assembly was presided over by Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro. The 101 assembly delegates elected Reynaldo Endis president and (Ostorio Fon) vice president.

Raul Castro Attends Commemorative Ceremony

FL0503222793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Today is the 35th anniversary of the creation of the Mario Munoz Monroy Western Third Front. Franco Carbon has last minute information on the commemorative ceremony that was held.

[Carbon] The central commemorative ceremony was held in Cruce de los Banos and was chaired by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Raul was accompanied by the founder of this front, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque. He was also accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes and by Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the PCC to Santiago de Cuba Province. The closing speech was given by Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, a member of the Central Committee of the PCC.

Mincin To Intensify Controls; Crombet Urges Rail Use

FL0503162593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The complex national economic situation and the consequent drop in the distribution and sale of items to the population demands the intensification of controls at warehouses and facilities of the Ministry of Domestic Trade [Mincin]. This was one of the most discussed issues at the Mincin assessment meeting for 1992 in which successes, difficulties, and problems in the supplying of products ranging from food and textiles to shoes and perfumes were discussed.

Jaime Crombet, the vice president of the Council of Ministers, stressed the need to use railroad transportation as much as possible to avoid problems with the transportation of products because railroad transportation is cheaper and faster as long as it is well organized. Regarding controls, it was pointed out that professional inspections lack standardization and a significant reduction in popular inspections is required [as heard].

Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Addresses Havana Audience

FL0603004393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2041 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Phongsavat Boupha, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, spoke on his country's situation at the Center for Asian and Oceanian Studies in Havana today. The Lao leader, who is also deputy foreign minister, said the fact that Asia is currently relatively stable politically constitutes a factor favorable to the stability of Laos. He said that despite the negative consequences of the disintegration of the USSR, there has been development to a small degree in Laos, development that is a result of the efforts of the Lao government and people.

The Lao deputy foreign minister said that the formation of the 85-member national assembly, a majority of whom are members of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party—the nation's only party—constitutes one more step taken, a step which the speaker said is very positive one.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Cararicom Council of Ministers Meeting Opens

FL0503224993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 5 Mar 93

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 5, CANA—The 40th meeting of the Caribbean Community's Common Market Council of Ministers opened in Georgetown Friday.

Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington told the ministers: "Today, we stand on the eve of a ... time of searching, on the eve of equally fundamental changes when the Common Market Council will soon be joined by the Council of the Caribbean Community Ministers and the English-speaking Caribbean peoples by the peoples of the wider Caribbean through the decision of the conference of the heads of government to form an association of Caribbean states.

"It is of primordial importance that those who are charged with the responsibility of designing, drafting and operating the instruments for the pursuit and achievement of the ambitions of the peoples of the region, to take most seriously our historical responsibilities and discharge them with the commitment and devotion which their noble purpose justifies."

Outgoing council chairman, Agriculture Minister of Grenada George Brizan, encouraged all member states to implement the Common External Tariff (CET) by the revised June 30, 1993 date.

Brizan, also Grenada's trade, industry and production minister, said the region must stop "vacillating" and

formulate a collective response to the prevailing changes dominating the international climate.

"To my mind, the most important challenge ... is for the region to formulate a collective, appropriate response to the prevailing changes in the international economic climate," he said, warning the region could be marginalised if it fails to do so.

"We have to approach this task with a great degree of seriousness," he asserted.

Citing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and European efforts at integration, Brizan said Caricom must bridge its relations with the wider Caribbean and the rest of Central America.

He said: "This would be critical. We must formulate an appropriate collective response and stop vacillating, or else in the next three to five years, sad to say, the region would be marginalised."

Incoming council chairman, Guyana's Trade, Industry and Tourism Minister Michael Shree Chan, said the region was being called upon to give more while receiving less on a playing field which was not level.

"As a community, these are the stark realities that face us. As individual member states, the realities are even starker. These questions we are pressed to ask ourselves each day are - what are the alternatives? What are the choices left for us?" Shree Chan said.

He added: "I would venture to say that these questions are even more fundamental when we consider the relationship we have sought over the years to engender and which we are still seeking feverishly to consolidate as a community of sovereign nations."

Caricom Secretariat officials said declining intra-regional trade, and agreements on rice, sugar, oils and fats would be high on its agenda of the meeting.

Briefing reporters at the secretariat's headquarters in Georgetown Thursday, Trade and Agriculture Chief Hayden Blades said intra-regional trade declined around three per cent for 1992 and this was caused by a drop in the purchase of petroleum products.

Ministers Discuss Intraregional Trade

FL0503162893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1400 GMT 5 Mar 93

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 5, CANA—The 40th Caribbean Community (Caricom) common market council of ministers meeting was opening in Georgetown Friday. Caricom secretariat officials said declining intraregional trade, and agreements on rice, sugar, oils, and fats would be high on its agenda.

Briefing reporters at the secretariat's headquarters in Georgetown Thursday, trade and agriculture chief,

Hayden Blades, said intraregional trade declined around three percent for 1992 and this was caused by a drop in the purchase of petroleum products.

"What essentially this data is beginning to show is that we are getting a change in the structure of the trade within the region. A lot of the trade that we used to do in petroleum products is now declining because countries like Guyana and Jamaica in particular are sourcing their petroleum products from extraregional sources under the new personal arrangements that they have," he told reporters. This, he said, was causing a shift in the petroleum trade. On intraregional trade barriers, Blades said nine of the member states have implemented legislation removing the application of restrictions on regional imports.

"We are hopeful that we can complete the arrangements for the free trade regime by the middle of this year," he said. "... We have arrived at a stage, I think, in respect of the manufactured goods where the barriers to trade are very insignificant within the framework of the operators of the common market." He acknowledged there are still some difficulties in the trading of primary agricultural products. Barriers, including licensing and administrative arrangements, are still there, he told reporters. These, he said, may require political intervention and accommodation.

"We think that this is the area that the governments have to focus their attention on now to try to free up the trade in primary agricultural products," Blades said, admitting that it may not be possible to get all the countries to free up their markets 100 percent. The council, he said, was also to discuss intraregional trade in rice and sugar at its two-day meeting.

Blades said Guyana was the region's major rice exporter, but doubts still remain about the stability of the market arrangements and the heads of government's decision, lowering rice tariffs from 45 to 25 percent by January 1, 1994.

"It seems as if what needs to be done is at the commercial level, one needs to come up with a set of arrangements between the producers and millers of rice and the importers and distributors of rice and some sort of commercial arrangements probably involving equity participation across national boundaries would be necessary in order to produce that long-term market plan," he remarked.

Meeting Called 'Moderate Success'

FL0703212593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706
GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 7, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary General Edwin Carrington says the just-concluded 40th Common Market Council of Ministers meeting here was a "moderate success", but acknowledged he would have liked more progress in certain areas.

"You know I am a very demanding secretary general and I would say it was a moderate success. As I said, tough, middle-of-the-road, hard-going stuff which would have to do with our integration process", Dr Carrington told reporters at a news conference. Asked if he would have liked more progress, he said: "Certainly", but he declined to give details on these areas.

Earlier, Carrington said the council examined the operations of the common market, specific problems affecting intra-regional trade, the performance of trade in the first half of 1992, existing trade barriers impeding trade and mechanisms established to facilitate trade.

"We looked at certain proposals with respect of rice and sugar...proposals designed to improve the position of these two commodities in the region," the secretary general told reporters. The meeting also examined problems affecting the oils and fats agreement, the Common External Tariff (CET), the "Buy Caribbean" campaign and ways to improve standards of regional goods.

On the single market, he said: "We looked at some continuing nagging problems, even in the preliminary first stage of free trade, but we looked right up at matters relating to the single market itself when it comes into being".

Caricom trade and agriculture chief, Hayden Blades, repeated concerns over a widening deficit between the region's so-called lesser developed countries (LDC's) [words indistinct] (MDC's).

"There is now a very large gap between the MDC-LDC trade with the LDC's being in a deficit...a deficit that is continuing to grow over the last two to three years," Blades told reporters. "The council has recognised that that kind of situation presents very critical difficulties for the integration movement if it persists and the trade in oils and fats is one of the major areas that one could look towards redressing that imbalance in trade," he said.

He said the council, in pointing the direction towards a resolution, had mandated the secretariat to convene meetings between St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to work out specific details on the likelihood of Port-of-Spain taking up a larger allocation of oils and fats produced in St. Lucia.

The technocrat said the council had gone ahead and agreed on the allocation and price for oils and fats for the first half of this year, but he added the mechanics between the two countries were still to be worked out.

He reported no major problems in Jamaica and Barbados, two other MDC's in oils and fats. Guyana, the fourth MDC, was self-sufficient in edible oil.

Jamaica takes up its annual allocation and Barbados has an agreement to import substitute oils, including soya bean and corn oils, to cope with shifting market demand.

Carrington said: "The difficulty we have is in the case of Trinidad and Tobago where, because of the internal

structure of the oils industry in Trinidad, where they are producing both coconut oil through the Coconut Growers' Association and they also produce soya bean oil through the national flour mill".

"There is a difficulty in their (Trinidad) taking up their coconut oil allocation," he said, adding the Common Market Council agreed to examine a mechanism aimed at allowing the state to import substitute oils.

"If we could get that resolve over the next couple of months, then I think we would be able to resolve the problem of the MDC's taking up the allocations of the edible oils from the LDC's," he said.

Blades said the overall growth of intra-regional trade was being affected by a decline in petroleum products. But, he added he expected this to "bottom out" by yearend when the oils and fats allocation is likely to be settled.

Jamaica's Manley To Head Caribbean Tourism Task Force

FL0703210393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640
GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 7, CANA—Former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley has been chosen to lead an international task force which will explore ways of increasing the development of tourism and its contribution to the standard of living of the Caribbean people, the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) here announced.

CHA said Manley, who retired last year as Jamaica's prime minister, has accepted to be chairman of the newly created Caribbean Tourism Development Task Force.

The task force will bring together the principal components of the Caribbean tourism industry, among which are governments, labour and trade unions, hotel and cruise sectors.

The task force will also consider the contribution of sectors such as agriculture, transport, entertainment and arts and crafts.

The Caribbean Tourism Development Task Force was formed against a background of increasing international competition and the region's declining share of global tourism expenditures.

Because of tourism's dominant role in most of the region's economies, this decrease in market share affects Caribbean states with particular severity.

While globally, tourism produces one job in every fifteen, in the Caribbean, tourism is the major producer of foreign earnings and accounts for one in every six jobs.

CHA said the Manley task force starts off with a broad agenda which will focus on enhancement of the Caribbean tourism product, regional marketing initiatives, the

cruise ships presence in the region, training and education for the Caribbean people, job creation, infrastructural development and environmental issues.

"Manley's leadership of this task force is the logical outcome to his 1992 initiative in convening a heads of Caribbean governments summit meeting with tourism as the sole agenda item," CHA said in a statement.

The CHA statement quoted Manley as saying he believes strongly in the importance of the region planning and acting together to ensure that the people derive the greatest possible benefits from the development of tourism.

It was his sincere hope that the task force would help the region's governments and tourism interests find the best ways to maximize these benefits, the statement said.

"Our great fortune is that our region can be the fulfillment of every vacationer's dream. The spirit of the Caribbean people with their energy, creativity and sense of hospitality makes this place, this space we occupy, potentially irresistible to the rest of the world," Manley said.

"But," according to Manley, "the challenge facing the Caribbean Tourism Development Task Force and the challenge facing the people of these islands is, through tourism, to meaningfully narrow the gap which exists between the living standards and the expectations of those who come to visit, and the reality of the lives that so many of our people are forced to lead, in all nations of the Caribbean."

CHA plans to hold a meeting in Berlin, Germany, to coincide with this year's international tourism trade fair now underway, to discuss immediate and long term perspectives for the Manley task force, the statement said.

Barbados

Sandiford, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Mideast, Trade

FL0603170393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1558
GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 6, CANA—[Passage indistinct] Erskine Sandiford, says he hopes that in the very near future the Middle East problems of territorial rights and nationhood will be a thing of the past, the state information service reported.

"He told this to the new Israeli ambassador to Barbados, Yoel Guilat, during a courtesy call Thursday," the Barbados Government information service said.

"Sandiford said that the issues facing Israel and the other countries in that region ought to be settled as far as possible by peaceful means. He also told the visiting ambassador that he was looking forward to a strengthening of relations between Barbados and Israel."

The service quoted Sandiford as saying: "We can further deepen the relations in concrete ways, maybe through the development of joint-venture projects that would be beneficial to both states."

Ambassador Guillaud said that his government was "doing all in our power to bring about peace in our region; and in fact, we are looking at bilateral and [passage indistinct]." He said that once peace was assured, Israel would be exploring the possibility of regional economic co-operation among the peoples of the Middle East, and he identified water resources and transport as two possible areas. The Israeli envoy also spoke of an improvement in relations between his country and the United Nations. He attributed this to the efforts of the new UN secretary general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"Indeed, for the first time ever, Israel has been asked to contribute to a UN peace serving mission, this is in Yugoslavia," he noted.

Cayman Islands

Hurlston: No Knowledge of Cuban Refugee Airlift Plan

FL0703223493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1995
GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, March 7, CANA—The Cayman Islands Government says it has no knowledge of any plan by a U.S.-based Cuban exile group to airlift Cuban refugees staying here to the Dominican Republic.

Chief Secretary Lem Hurlston said the government had heard nothing from the National Democratic Unity Party, the group which claims to be able to bring the refugees to the Dominican Republic.

In a wire service story last Wednesday from Puerto Rico a party spokesperson said they had permission from Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer to airlift Cuban refugees there within the next 72 hours.

The wire service story had quoted a Modesto Alvarez Gonzalez as a spokesperson for the group. He said in the story the Cubans would be housed and fed in the Dominican Republic while they waited a decision on U.S. visas.

Hurlston said he would first need a formal request from the group and confirmation that the Dominican Republic would accept them before proceeding with the request.

Russell Swann from the British Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Department, who is currently in the Cayman Islands assisting the government with the refugee situation, said he had no more information on the group than what had appeared in the wire service report.

He said he had no objection to the transfer provided that the Cubans here agreed to go. No Cuban refugees in the Cayman Islands will be forced to go anywhere they do not want to go, he stated.

"As far as we are concerned, the wire service report is speculation," he said.

Efforts to reach a National Democratic Unity Party official who was reportedly in the Cayman Islands last Thursday to assist in the airlift, were unsuccessful.

Swann also said funding for construction of a tent city for refugees similar to those in the U.S. was proceeding. He could not, however, give a date for the start of construction.

There are 161 Cuban refugees currently in the Cayman Islands.

Dominica

Opposition Welcomes Closer Ties With Cuba

FL0503225193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2115
GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 5, CANA—Opposition Member of Parliament and leader of the Dominica Labour Party Rosie Douglas is welcoming an apparent softening of attitude on the part of the Dominica Government towards Fidel Castro's Communist Cuba.

A visiting Cuban official earlier this week held talks with External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne on the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with Havana.

Prime Minister Dame Eugenia Charles, a staunch anti-communist who called for the invasion of Grenada in 1983 then under Cuban influence, by U.S. led troops, said recently that she favours strengthening trading relations with the Cubans. She said that Washington should lift its 30-year-old trade embargo on Cuba.

Douglas who has been instrumental in obtaining Cuban scholarships for young Dominicans in the past, contends that Cuba cannot be ignored by the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

The DLP leader is arguing that a lifting of the U.S. embargo could hasten Cuba's entry into the democratic process.

"A Caribbean (trading) bloc, for it to be respected in the modern world, must include Cuba. The question of democratic changes in Cuba, that is a matter for the Cuban people, and I am satisfied that as long as the blockade against Cuba is lifted the changes will come faster than most of us dream," the DLP leader suggested.

Douglas is of the view that while the Cuban people crave democratic change, holding a hammer over their heads and threatening them is not the way forward.

Haiti

Chamber Educational Committee Opposes School Closing

FL0503105593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies educational committee has asked the interim rector, Gerard Bissainthe, and his superiors in the hierarchy to review their decision to close the Teachers Training School and to not validate the diplomas of the outgoing students of the Faculty of Medicine this year. We cannot accept these measures, says the educational committee of the Chamber of Deputies, pointing out that this measure has proven the failure of the de facto government, which is trying to provoke disturbances everywhere.

Deputies Fritz Robert Saint-Paul, Gary Guiteau, Kerne Charles Jean-Philippe, and Rindal Pierre-Canel, who say they are supporting all those affected by this decision, have suggested a concerted action among all forces in the country to stop this move.

Further Reaction to Decision

FL0503170693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] headed by Rene Theodore blames the Marc Bazin government for all the decisions and damages that Bissainthe is making at the university. To refuse diplomas to the medical students after all the years of sacrifice by their parents on behalf of their studies is a crime that even Francois Duvalier would not have dared commit, according to the MRN statement. In a press release, the MRN says it considers the fact that the rector of the university has closed the Teachers Training School a mistake.

Eddy Volel of the Christian Democratic Assembly says the fact that the rectorate has decided to close these two faculties will cost the country dearly just as everything else going on these days is very serious.

At the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Vergniaud Pean, president of the board of directors of the faculty, has resigned. This is perhaps the means he has chosen to protest the new decisions of the rectorate. The other professors of the Faculty of Medicine do not agree that Dr. Pean should leave the faculty.

Professors Dismissed at Agronomy Faculty

FL0503195693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The Faculty of Agronomy has also been hit by dismissal measures. Four professors of the institution have been dismissed by the dean. During a news conference on 4 March, the dismissed professors took a stand against those measures and asked for the resignation of

the dean to enhance normalization of the situation at the Faculty of Agronomy. The following is a report by Guilloteau Francois.

[Begin Francois recording, in Creole] There is an ongoing battle among several sectors within the state university. Dismissals of professors, the closing of the Teachers Training School, the nonvalidation of the Faculty of Medicine diplomas are issues that have worsened the situation in the public faculties at this time. Professors and students continue to react, either asking the offices of the deans of some faculties to reconsider their decisions or to condemn the measures that Bissainthe has taken.

On 4 March, four professors dismissed by the dean of the Faculty of Agronomy, Dr. Robert Joseph, for either desertion of their posts or for lack of a budget—he says—held a news conference to explain the reasons for their dismissals. According to one of the dismissed professors, it is mostly the absence of students and the climate of repression at the Faculty of Agronomy that prompted them to desert their posts. The professor thinks it is anti-educational for both professors and students to work in a faculty where armed civilians are putting pressure on them. He believes the resolution that is turning the Faculty of Agronomy upside down is through the resignation of Robert Joseph [as heard], the almighty dean—the professor says—who makes and breaks the Faculty of Agronomy. [passage omitted]

Concerning the closing of the Teachers Training School, some students say they were frustrated when they heard of such a measure. It has to do with the biased policy that the interim rector of the state university has been applying since he was appointed head of the rectorate. According to the students, before Bissainthe decided to block all activities at the faculty, he should have entered into talks with students and professors determine whether or not they wanted to stop working. The students say Bissainthe's measure is illegal and discriminatory. [passage omitted]

In a communique dated 2 March, the rector of the university, Gerard Bissainthe, announced that he has closed the Teachers Training School until further notice, that he has dismissed the professors, and that he has put the students on standby [last word in English]. In the same communique, interim Rector Bissainthe spoke of preparatory courses which he will establish for the new students. [end recording]

Correction to UN Mission Chief Commenting on Situation

WA0803150593

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "UN Mission Chief Caputo Comments on Situation," published in the 12 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6:

Column two, second paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...200 civilians to monitor the internal situation.... (rewording)

Same column, third paragraph, only sentence, make read ...the objective of "monitoring the situation of".... (rewording)

St. Lucia

Prime Minister Critical of Regional Interest Rates

FL0603192393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1836
GMT 6 Mar 93

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 6, CANA—St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton has criticised commercial banks operating in the region for maintaining high interest rates, saying they are likely to discourage investment. Compton, addressing the official opening of the fourth branch of the Trinidad and Tobago-based Caribbean Banking Corporation Limited (CBC) here Friday, said he was perturbed at the current interest rates being applied by financial institutions in the region.

Compton said while interest rates were useful in determining the socio-economic development of a country, "one would have thought that in the Caribbean area with relatively low inflation and a crying need for economic expansion to provide employment, that the policy of our banking system would have been to encourage savings by improving interest rates payable on deposits."

He said he also felt that such rates should be geared "[word indistinct] business activity by the expansion of credit and the lowering of interest rates on loans. But the reverse appears to be the case. While interest rates on savings, whether ordinary or time deposits, have been lowered, [passage indistinct]. One wonders how could a farmer or businessman make it with 15 or 16 percent interest, or how can a teacher, or bank clerk own a home at current rates," he added.

"The trend of international interest rates has for some time been downward, but this current has not yet reached our Caribbean shores," the prime minister said. He applauded the CBC's decision to offer rates equivalent to London inter-bank rates.

"If we are to effectively tackle our problems of unemployment and underdevelopment, one of the tools must be the availability of credit at interest rates which are affordable," Compton said. Compton said that with the region moving towards a single market, he appreciated moves by CBC and an international bank operating in the region to localise their operations.

"Our individual markets are far too small and our financial institutions need space to grow. They need the whole of the Caribbean space. And as long as these institutions have a sound financial base, let the decisions

for their expansion be one for their board of directors and not one for the governmental authorities." He said this was important as Caribbean people being more involved in the process would give meaning to the phrase "controlling the commanding heights of our economy".

"As the Caribbean moves to the creation of a single market within the Caribbean community, this concept can develop its full potential if corresponding and supportive action is taken in the field of capital movement to ensure the free movement of capital," he added.

"The difficulties surrounding the implementation of this ordeal is not underestimated, but the full potential of the Caribbean in regional trade, the CET notwithstanding, will never be realised unless a solution is found to this problem," he added.

CBC's chairman Peter July noted that it was imperative that as the region moved closer, "we have strong institutions spanning all states, with the financial, technological and human resource skills and resources to be major players in the financial sector".

"We eagerly anticipate the day of the free movement of labour, capital, goods and services within the region...And through our network of branches...Clients would be able to obtain their cash requirements and to perform other banking and consumer transactions wherever they might be," July said. He said the bank here would provide a full range of facilities to encourage savings and investments and "will constantly review existing and introduce new products as market realities and demands dictate."

CBC, formed in 1985 as a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited and Neal and Massy Holdings Limited, also has branches in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Hopes To Meet With Clinton, Major in May

FL0503225793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2203
GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 5, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning is planning an official visit in May to meet with Britain's Prime Minister John Major and is also hoping to officially meet U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Last year when I met with (former U.S. President) Bush, we had agreed that the Government of the United States would extend an invitation to the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago to make an official visit to the United States this year," Manning told reporters Friday.

"The government has changed and the agreement has been drawn to the attention of the new government. As of now, we have no feed-back on the matter but I have

every reason to believe that the new government is contemplating implementing that agreement at a time that is convenient to both countries.

"In short, I expect that sometime this year I will have a chance to go to the United States and meet the U.S. President to discuss numerous matters."

In his discussions with Major, Manning said he hoped to raise a number of issues which were mutual to Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom.

The prime minister also announced that prior to the press conference, he received a telephone call from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on the Haitian situation and attempts by the Organisation of American States (OAS) to negotiate the return of Haiti's first democratically-elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in a military-led coup more than a year ago.

"Haiti continues to be high on the agenda for Trinidad and Tobago and on the agenda of the Caribbean," he said, referring to a recent statement by the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Bureau.

Manning who is chairman of Caricom said the twin-island state would associate itself with "any reasonable step" which was designed to bring a state of normalcy to Haiti.

Manning Seeks 'Sacrifice' for Foreign Debt Repayment

FL0503225293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2145
GMT 5 Mar 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 5, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Patrick Manning, on Friday called for sacrifice, tolerance and understanding while his government focuses more attention on the high external debt.

"Service of the foreign debt is top priority," Manning told reporters, adding that by 1995 the debt problem would become manageable.

"That's the year in which we believe we can begin to look at some other domestic matters to a far greater extent than what we have been able to do in the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, because of the rescheduled public debt and the bunching of those payments in the three years," he said.

"That was the basis, to a very large extent, in which we made the call to the national community for tolerance, for understanding and, of course, it is a call I wish to make again this morning, a call for tolerance, a call for understanding that the country is going through very difficult circumstances and a call, of course, for more sacrifice."

Trinidad and Tobago has an external debt of US\$2.2 billion dollars and has to repay US\$653 million dollars this year to the external creditors.

Speaking at the first of a series of government press conferences, Manning said the People's National Movement (PNM) took over government in December 1992 at the height of the period of structural adjustment and a bunching of external debt which was rescheduled by the previous administration.

"On the question of moving too fast, ... it is simple. The faster you move, the shorter a period of time the country stays in this temporary position," Manning said. "... The faster one moves, the quicker you come to the point where that adjustment is behind us and we can begin to reap the benefits of that adjustment," he asserted.

He referred to the Water And Sewerage Authority (WASA) where government is sending home 1,000 workers and a special team is looking at ways to make the public utility efficient.

"It's not just a matter of cutting back on expenditure, it's a question of efficiency and as WASA begins to become efficient, it qualifies itself for funding that is available only at this time from international sources.

"...To qualify for funding from international agencies we have to meet certain criteria as it relates to efficiency," he explained.

Government's retrenchment plans which include sending home 1,000 workers from the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) and 600 at the Port Authority has met strong opposition from the public sector unions.

But Manning warned that protest marches and industrial action by workers and unions would not change government's course.

"We've made it clear that we don't have money, as a consequence of which we have had to cut back on subventions to the public utilities. Some people have to go home as a result of that.

"What is being said by some sections of the public sector is the money you owe me I want you to pay me now," Manning said in reference of billion dollar salary arrears to workers.

"The state just cannot pay and the position is not going to be changed by demonstrations ... by attempts to blackmail the government ... by seeking to intensify pressure on the government," he said.

"We reiterate the position (that) we cannot pay. The minister of finance has made it clear. He is not stingy, he's just broken. That's the fact."

Since the start of the year, thousands of state-paid employees, including teachers, civil servants and utility

workers, have been marching through the streets of Port of Spain to force government's hand on the payments issue.

Thousands of teachers have also planned another two day sick-out from next Monday while the National Trade Union Centre (Natuc) has threatened to call a general strike.

Stating that he understood what it was to be unemployed, Manning said a cabinet appointed team was looking at strategies to cushion the effects of retrenchment.

He said one strategy was to give the retrenched workers a monthly payment on the severance benefits and encouraging them to set up their own small businesses.

Union Condemns Police Intervention in Hospital Protest

*FL0603144893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1411
GMT 6 Mar 93*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 6, CANA—The National Trade Union Centre (Natuc) has condemned

the police intervention in a protest at the Port of Spain general hospital which led to the arrest of 11 clerks and a female trade unionist. Natuc, an amalgamation of trade unions, said in a statement that the protest took place in the corridors of the hospital's offices and not on the streets.

The workers who were protesting bad conditions at the hospital on Wednesday were charged with disorderly conduct.

"Natuc questions (whether) there is at this stage a deliberate attempt to introduce the use of the police as an element in the conduct of industrial relations issues and, if so, strongly condemns it," the statement signed by President Errol McCleod said.

The association called on the authorities to immediately look into the matter and to take steps to bring disciplinary charges against those who "so irresponsibly sought to worsen the already charged industrial relations atmosphere existing in the public sector."

President Salinas Attends PRI Anniversary Ceremony

PA0503151393 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari attended the ceremony commemorating the 64th anniversary of the creation of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI. He stressed the responsibility all Mexican political forces have in committing themselves to four fundamental rules: the first commitment should be toward the nation's stability; the second toward citizens, through fair competition for power; the third toward democratic rules; and the fourth toward themselves by promoting clear programs and carrying them out.

Salinas de Gortari added that the PRI has been transforming itself:

[Begin Salinas recording] The PRI will become more united and more up to date, and it will continue to be Mexico's greatest party. With its actions, it will show each citizen why it represents the best option for the country. Therefore, I express my recognition to you for your encouragement to the great task and leadership responsibility of our fellow party member Genaro Borrego Estrada. [end recording]

Genaro Borrego, president of the PRI National Executive Council, said the great transformations within the party have created a new horizon of firm convictions, ideological agreement, and the conditions to perceive a changing world.

[Begin Borrego recording] Our party has the historical commitment of gathering progressive forces and representing the genuine interests of the majority of our people. Only by doing so will we be able to continue to lead the nation's transformation process. [end recording]

The ceremony commemorating the 64th PRI anniversary was not a popular act. There were no signs, shouts, or slogans at the Plutarco Elias Calles Auditorium. It was attended by approximately 1,200 people, including the PRI governors, Finance Minister Pedro Aspe, Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis, Public Education Secretary Ernesto Zedillo, Social Development Secretary Luis Donaldo Colosio, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, Jesus Kumate, Emilio Lozoya Thalmann, Victor Cervera, and Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, as well as deputies, senators, and cabinet members, and political leaders.

President Salinas Comments on PEMEX Privatization

PA0603181293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0931 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Coatzacoalcos (Mexico), 6 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has said Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) will remain in the hands

of Mexicans, even though the participation of private capital in this sector will increase.

The president stressed the need for bolstering investment to generate jobs and said PEMEX "had a period of noticeable expansion, which was disorderly in many aspects as it damaged the environment and caused an explosive growth of the southern cities in Veracruz State," located in eastern Mexico.

He added that the parastate enterprise later went through a second stage that demanded a reorganization of its finances and productive structures and that meant a reduction in employment. However, he said that now "we are beginning a third stage in the development of the state, and above all, in its southern region."

"This means this year there will be more investment, more employment, and more opportunities for development," said Salinas de Gortari.

Later, the president said that one-fifth of the PEMEX's total nationwide spending this year will go to Veracruz State. This represents an investment in Veracruz State of 1 billion new pesos, of which 300 million new pesos will go to protecting the environment and carrying out projects by the enterprise.

He said that, responding to the Veracruz people's desire to participate in the country's changes and transformations, the state government will receive from different sources approximately 9.169 billion new pesos this year to promote social and productive investment projects.

Guatemala To Request Extradition of URNG Member

PA0503144193 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Guatemalan General Consulate in Mexico will ask the Foreign Relations Secretariat to extradite Jose Matias Armira Jacob, a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], who used false documents with the alias Cesar Mauricio Garcia Mendez. Armira Jacob and his girlfriend, Saturnina Garcia Sanchez, were discovered in Tehuacan, Puebla, where they kept a warehouse stocked with high-powered weapons, rocket launchers, grenades, and warheads.

Before taking the weapons to the warehouse in Tehuacan, the alleged guerrillas had stored them in Tlaxcala. Armira Jacob and Garcia Sanchez, who have been charged with collecting and possessing weapons, are from San Martin Jilotepec, Guatemala.

The Family Development System in Tehuacan Puebla has taken the guerrilla couple's two minor children into custody until their parents' legal situation is resolved.

Costa Rica

New Trade Minister Announces Program

PA0503160993 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
27 Feb 93 p 6a

[Article by Margarita Arteaga]

[Text] Roberto Rojas, new economy, industry, and commerce minister, says that upon assuming his post on 1 March his main goal will be to achieve broader foreign and local trade. Rojas replaces Gonzalo Fajardo at the Economy, Industry, and Commerce Ministry (MEIC).

Rojas told LA NACION in an interview: "The nation's economy has undergone very important changes. The MEIC is an obviously obsolete structure in light of the opening of the markets, while the application of some of its duties currently lack meaning."

Rojas will take over the MEIC, given Minister Fajardo's resignation, on 28 February. Fajardo will work from now on on his political campaign for the February 1994 elections as the Social Christian Unity Party deputy candidate in Puntarenas.

President Rafael Angel Calderon highlighted, among the achievements in trade, Costa Rican entry into the GATT, the establishment of free zones, and progress in the negotiations with Central America, the United States, and the rest of the world.

Calderon chaired the inauguration of the Foreign Trade Center located at 40th Street and 1st Avenue on the Paseo Colon. The National Center for the Promotion of Exports and Investments, which marked its 25th anniversary on 26 February, and the Free Zone Corporation are also located at this same site.

During the inauguration, Rojas delivered a commemorative plaque to former President Jose Joaquin Trejos and to then Economy Minister Manuel Jimenez de la Guardia for the creation of institutions that have served as the bases for opening trade.

Rojas said that in the local sector he will put greater emphasis on market deregulation. This would be achieved, he said, by eliminating all barriers for Costa Rican and foreign products.

This would also foster free competition that in turn would strengthen the modernization process of companies.

With this goal in mind, Rojas will make changes in the operations of diverse MEIC departments: in the Trade and Industry Department, and in those where experts study the decrees and laws that increase the costs of and block trade transactions.

There are laws in force that go back 50 years, drawn up to work within a protectionist model that wanted to guarantee the local market to Costa Rican producers and

to prevent massive imports. These laws currently increase the cost of goods and services to consumers.

Rojas commented: "One example is that for many years the Trade Division was engaged in establishing price and cost models. As these are no longer fixed, its duties should be reoriented and converted into a division that will expedite trade," he noted.

Rojas added that there will be a program to inform consumers about prices aimed at encouraging competition among producers and merchants and facilitate Costa Rican access to diverse products and services of an industrial, financial, or agricultural nature.

In the international field, the Central American economic integration will be transferred from the MEIC to the Foreign Trade Ministry. This transfer is to coordinate, under one umbrella, trade relations with the Isthmus, the United States—the main trading partner—and the rest of the world.

El Salvador

Salvadoran-Honduran Commission Views Border Issues

PA0603223093 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The problems of land ownership and nationality in the border areas affected by the decision issued by the International Court of Justice at The Hague will be evaluated "in depth" by high level commissions, in accordance with a resolution issued at the third meeting of the El Salvador-Honduras Binational Commission that ended on 4 March.

The commissions will be installed the week of 7 March and their purpose will be to "safeguard the human rights and basic liberties of the residents." Additionally, it was decided that visits should be made to the areas affected by the ruling on the week of 7 March.

Another important point of the resolutions is the holding of a joint census of the population and properties in the affected areas. The governments of El Salvador and Honduras agreed to carry out joint juridical actions in the area to maintain appropriate levels of communication and assistance, in keeping with the requirements of the situation and the needs of residents. This will "promote an orderly and safe transition with regard to the respective sovereignties."

The ruling by the international Court of Justice will be translated into Spanish on 11 March in order "to obtain a single text that will permit faithful and strict compliance."

When the translations are finished, they will be exchanged until the complete document is translated in "the shortest possible term," the corresponding resolution stated.

Finally, it was agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the Commission in San Salvador within a month, as determined by the established working regulations.

Onusal Chief on Release of Truth Commission Report

PA0603033593 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p3

[Text] On 4 March, Igbal Riza, chief of the UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal), disclosed that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will release the report issued by the Truth Commission, even if its impact could be "a bit harsh."

The Onusal chief noted: "The peace agreements state the secretary general must make the report public. I think the impact of this document could be a bit harsh at first. But it is important that Salvadoran society knows the truth."

The Truth Commission plans to deliver the report to Butrus-Ghali on 15 March. He will then send a copy to President Alfredo Cristiani and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), signatories of the Chapultepec Agreements.

The Commission was created to investigate the most serious crimes committed during the war.

According to Riza, the government and the FMLN "have the responsibility to prevent any problems and make efforts to guarantee difficult situations will not occur following the release of the document," because reconciliation is what is being sought.

Riza, a Pakistani diplomat, held his last news conference because he will return to the United Nations on 7 March to hold a new post in the Department of Operations To Maintain Peace.

Opposition parties, the National Solidarity Movement (MNS) and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) agreed the report must be released to the Salvadoran people before the electoral process, not after it.

Arturo Magana, spokesman of the National Peasant-Worker Union, UNOC, said the report must be made public as established in the agreements.

UNTS, CPDN Oppose Concealing Report

PA0503163193 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] and the CPDN [Permanent Commission for the National Debate on Peace] criticized the government request not to disclose the Truth Commission report until 1994. Both organizations pointed out that this position goes against the Salvadoran people's wish to know the truth, as well as the peace agreement stipulation indicating that the truth commission findings must be made public.

Both pressure groups stressed the need to know the truth in order to achieve full national reconciliation. To the

CPDN, the government request not to disclose the names included in the commission report merely perverts the peace agreements.

[Begin recording] [Reverend Edgar Palacios, the CPDN coordinator] According to our point of view, to try to conceal or block information included in the Ad Hoc Commission from the population would be similar to denying the agreements. There can be no reconciliation without disclosing the truth. To seek to disclose the report at a more favorable moment just forces us to ask when this favorable moment is going to take place? We believe that this request would only nullify the spirit and letter of the peace agreement. [end recording]

Rev. Palacios pointed out that while there might well be an amnesty in the future for those mentioned in the report, it is first necessary to disclose the truth about these persons and the events in which they participated.

On the other hand, the UNTS urged the government to publish the entire Truth Commission report since, according to them, the Salvadoran people are entitled to know everything.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified UNTS representative] The Salvadoran people witnessed and experienced the severe and continuous violations of their rights. Just as they endured and witnessed these human rights violations in the past, they are now entitled to know the Truth Commission report findings. The Salvadoran people have earned the right to know who the main participants are and who is responsible for these continuous human rights violations. [end recording]

The CPDN and the UNTS stated their disagreement with the government position that disclosing the report would merely lead to social unrest. They believe that, on the contrary, disclosing the report would only lead to facilitating the reconciliation process.

FMLN Denies Ownership of Weapons Found in Panama

PA0603014893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Balmora Parada]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] political party has flatly denied that weapons confiscated from a gang of smugglers in Panama belong to the former Salvadoran guerrillas. It was reported in Panama that the Panamanian Judicial Technical Police disbanded a gang of gunrunners on 4 March and, according to official sources in Panama, the weapons seized during the operation belonged to the former FMLN guerrillas. Leonel Gonzalez, a political leader of the party, after pointing out that other countries in Central America have tried to link the former insurgents with gun running operations, said that the FMLN is not responsible for any such smuggling activities.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] So, as you can see, the FMLN lost a large number of weapons during the 12 years of war. We believe there were more than 4,000 rifles lost, including AK-47 rifles. We have demanded that the Armed Forces file a report with the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] listing all the weapons they seized from FMLN storage sites. This list has never been reported, so we cannot rule out the possibility that the weapons are circulating in Central America. As the current FMLN, we have given all our weapons to Onusal, which Onusal has certified. The United Nations has even stated it is satisfied that the weapons listed were destroyed.

[Parada] What is behind all this? The incident took place in Central America and seems to involve the authorities of each country.

[Gonzalez] I believe the motive is drug trafficking, to try and link the FMLN with drug trafficking. We believe these types of weapons will appear again and similar situations will occur. A large number of weapons are moving throughout Central America. We have just ended a war; Nicaragua is going through a difficult time, the contras left a large number of weapons around, so I imagine Central America is still a worthwhile market for weapons. I am sure many weapons will continue to be found. We are surprised that the FMLN was mentioned in this case, as it is very difficult for a Panamanian authority to say that these weapons are part of the FMLN arsenal. One might ask on what does he base his statements? [end recording]

Leonel Gonzalez said that all the FMLN weapons were destroyed in accordance with the peace accords signed in Mexico. He did not rule out the possibility that there might be someone acting deliberately, and stressed that the FMLN is a political party and is not involved in gunrunning activities.

Guatemala

Union Leader Holds Government Responsible for Threats

PA0603043393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The leader of a worker's union was preparing to go into exile, after reporting threats and harassments. William Miranda, the secretary general of directors of the San Juan de Dios Hospital Worker's Union, said he believes the threats are due to his efforts to disclose the serious problems in the public health system, particularly at government administrated hospitals.

[Begin recording] [Miranda] Given that we have constantly been under persecution of one kind or another, I am leaving the board of directors of the San Juan de Dios Hospital Worker's Union. I am going to the U.S. Embassy and will then leave for Canada, God willing. Therefore, I hereby publicly state that teachers, the media, union members, and all of those in Guatemala who defend the rights of Guatemalan workers and the

population in general, will be persecuted and repressed. This is why I am leaving. I also call on President Jorge Serrano to negotiate with the workers, just as he negotiates with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity and with the countries of Europe, Asia, and other continents. This is a direct call for a national dialogue.

[Unidentified Reporter] Where do you think the attacks against you originate?

[Miranda] I believe we must publicly state that the persecution might come from the government. We have repeatedly asked the government, which is a neoliberal government, not to privatize the public health system. I therefore accuse... [pauses] directly accuse the government of being the mastermind behind the persecution and the intimidation. Furthermore, I hold the government responsible for anything that may happen to me or my family.

[Reporter] What are some of the main problems at the San Juan de Dios Hospital that have not been solved by the authorities?

[Miranda] The most essential problems are the following... [pauses] The San Juan de Dios Hospital's problems are the following... [pauses] I do not want to speak only of these problems, as I am a member of the National Assembly of Public Health Workers. I wish to speak about the whole hospital network. The main problems are the lack of medicines, food for the patients, and we do not have enough nurses or assistants. There is a shortage of 1,800 nursing assistants. The workers are owed their regular days off and vacations for two years. That is a specific violation of the Constitution and the laws of the land. [end recording]

Menendez Terms Those Calling for Rapporteur 'Hostile'

PA0603042993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p3

[Text] On 4 March, Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park said that the countries that are asking the UN Human Rights Commission to appoint a rapporteur for Guatemala "show a hostile and severe attitude" against the country.

He noted that his government deplores the attitude of certain nations, which he did not specify. He said that Guatemala respects, but does not agree with the stand these countries have taken with regard to the human rights situation in Guatemala.

He added that the countries interested in the appointment of a rapporteur for Guatemala are influenced by nongovernment organizations that want to highlight internal problems because "they live off of that."

"They live very well by speaking badly about Guatemala," he emphasized and added that the groups interested in this type of activity, receive international aid when they report alleged human rights violations.

Menendez Park said that some foreigners have even abused the hospitality given to them in the country. He said that he trusts Guatemala will not be transferred to topic No. 12 of the commission that is currently meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Although the minister did not identify the countries that are asking for a rapporteur for Guatemala, ENFOPRENSA reported that "foreign diplomats backed the proposal made by many nongovernment organizations to place Guatemala under topic No. 12 of the agenda."

ENFOPRENSA reported that Jakob Esper Larse, the Danish permanent representative, and Anne Park, head of the Canadian delegation, asked that Guatemala "be better analyzed" under topic No. 12.

Arturo Alvarado, the Presidency's public relations secretary, said that there will be very severe sanctions against Guatemala.

Army Spokesman on Guerrilla Recruitment

PA0603034393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Army found Carlos Enrique Gonzalez Rodriguez and Angel Farfan Parada, two Mexican minors who had been allegedly recruited for military service in Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango Department. The Mexican Consulate reported that the minors were returned to Ciudad Hidalgo.

Meanwhile, military spokesman Alberto Yon Rivera commented on the recruitment of youths to serve in the Army.

[Begin Yon Rivera recording] The forceful recruitment, as it is called, should be analyzed, because the military service is an obligation of all citizens. Military service is included in the Constitution of the country.

On one hand, there is a discrepancy between the concepts of forceful or legal military service. We regret the fact that everyone speaks out against the Armed Forces when we are not carrying out forceful recruitment, as it has been claimed. So far, no person or institution has issued a statement on the three minors who were recruited by the rebels and were forced to participate in an armed clash. They were killed late in the week of 21 February. So far, no one has said anything about this incident. [end recording]

Honduras

Foreign Minister Comments on Protest Over VOA Report

PA0503145693 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1218 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Honduran Government has presented an official protest to the U.S. Government on a report aired by the VOA, the U.S. Government official radio station.

The Honduran Government, in light of the statements broadcast by the VOA regarding the activities of the Honduran Armed Forces, delivered a protest note to U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Cresencio Arcos.

Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Carias] I would like to report that the Foreign Ministry has presented a formal protest note to the U.S. Government on the article aired by the VOA. I have delivered an official note to U.S. Ambassador Cresencio Arcos.

We analyzed the issue and believe the VOA article contains phrases that denigrate the country's image and since it has had such a broad audience, this will bring about repercussions that are adverse to the real Honduras. We believe there is a lack of objectivity in the VOA article as the station implied that Honduras is not a country with an army, but an army with a country.

The VOA has had a long presence in Honduras. We all remember that only six or eight years ago that station made other kinds of statements and carried out other kinds of activities in support of U.S. policy here in Central America.

Thus, we thought it would be convenient to make a statement strongly rejecting the concepts expressed in that article and we hope to receive greater objectivity in dealing with Honduran problems.

We must point out that Honduras is a country in which political parties have been active since the beginning of the century, democracy has been well emphasized, and that in November, we will hold the fifth consecutive general election since 1980. Therefore, we believe the article does not exhibit proper objectivity and professionalism, and that is the reason for our rejection.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you interpret that article as the U.S. Government's opinion? And, to whom will the respective protest be presented?

[Carias] The protest is expressed in a note addressed by the Honduran Foreign Ministry to the U.S. Embassy here in Tegucigalpa as the VOA is an official organ of the U.S. Government. Therefore, the information gathered and broadcast by that station, and the manner in which it was broadcast—as the opinions on such a delicate topic were not attributed to any person or even the analyst, but just issued in the name of the VOA—enables us to express this rejection and protest before the U.S. Government.

[Reporter] Thus, could this be interpreted as the U.S. Government's opinion?

[Carias] The last report I received on the morning of 5 March is that an embassy spokesman said it was not an editorial, but just an opinion from a particular person. However, that does not solve the problem as the VOA is broadcasting around the world, saying that Honduras is

a country that does not have organized civilian institutions and is not a country with a democratic system, but under military control, which is not true. [end recording]

Callejas Remarks on VOA Commentary

PA0503144093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Mar 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified reporters in San Pedro Sula on 4 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. President, we would like to take this opportunity to ask you about the statement by VOA to the effect that we have here an army with a country rather than a country with an army. Does this type of commentary have much of an effect on our country? Is VOA telling the truth?

[Callejas] It affects our country a great deal, and VOA is not telling the truth. Honduras has three legitimate branches of power, and it is a nation where the democratic system is respected. We have our faults, and we admit that there are some weak spots in the three state branches.

Nevertheless, there is a big difference between that and what VOA said. That is why the Government of the Republic has presented a formal protest through the Foreign Ministry to the U.S. ambassador so this type of thing can be prevented in the future because it greatly deteriorates our country's image overseas.

Anyone listening to the VOA in Germany or Argentina is going to believe that there is violence in this country and that we do not have the peaceful society that we have. I admit that there have been some violent actions under certain circumstances, but in general, Honduran society is a peaceful society.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] concerning all the comments about your administration, the Armed Forces, and the [words indistinct] the policy of President Bill Clinton, do you think this is correct?

[Callejas] Absolutely. I do not know what Bill Clinton's policy is.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] I would say so. The people are clearly represented there. It includes the political parties, the media, and the Catholic Church. We want the country's various sectors to have access to this commission so it will take action according to the provisions under which it was formed. It specifies that solutions must be presented to the National Investigations Department and the Public Security Forces in 30 days.

Everyone has access to the commission, but we cannot have too many people in the commission because then it would be difficult to get any results. We hope to have some solutions in 30 days, [words indistinct] and that the

commission will have the capability to offer alternatives. I will have additional measures once the alternatives have been presented.

More on VOA Report, Other Issues

PA0503173693 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1459 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Valeriano Giron]

[Excerpt] The high-level commission the government created to investigate the country's police agencies was sworn in by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in a special ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, we asked him whether the commission will have the truly free hand necessary for its work.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] Of course, the commission members and the agencies they represent will take the necessary measures to improve the institutions in charge of protecting the people and property in the country.

[Giron] Are there great expectations on the results of the commission's work?

[Callejas] They are entitled to, but should not have greater hopes than those warranted by the agreement whereby the commission should start work on matters related to the Department of National Investigations [DIN] in no more than 30 days. The commission can then proceed to work on other agencies from the Attorney General's Office, the Judicial Branch, to the Public Security Forces. The general layout of the agreement has been established, which stipulates the commission's work.

[Giron] The people are watching to see what might come up from complaints filed against the DIN. As president of the republic, will you take drastic measures if the commission so recommends?

[Callejas] I will heed the commission's recommendations, regardless of their nature.

[Giron] What do you think about the VOA reports against the Honduran Armed Forces and the country?

[Callejas] This is a very complex situation. The reports are inconsistent with the country's reality. Anyone living outside Honduras would say we are at war, that there are no civilian or legal authorities. The report allegedly was made by a VOA announcer. But, because there was no responsible person, we filed a protest to the U.S. Government through the Foreign Ministry.

[Giron] Do these reports affect the Honduran image abroad and do they reduce potential investments?

[Callejas] Investments will not be affected, but they do harm the country because we are made to return to times when violence prevailed for other reasons, for instance, the situation in Central America.

[Giron] What is being criticized is the Armed Forces expenses.

[Callejas] They are the result of laws. I only heed the existing law. I think this point has not been explained clearly to the people. It would seem people let themselves be influenced by personal feelings. We should bear in mind, however, that these laws have been in force for a long time. Sometimes it happens that those who criticize are the same ones who enacted those very same laws, which includes the Armed Forces Bank, IPM [Military Social Security Institute], PREVISA, which is the insurance institute, and the privatization law itself, which was promulgated between 1985 and 1989. These laws stipulate that the social protection funds should have priority for the acquisition of state enterprises. The laws are that way. And yet they are criticized, although society accepted these laws a long time ago. This is nothing new or circumstantial. We Hondurans decided to give the Armed Forces these rights in the 1970's and 1980's. [passage omitted]

Congress Leader Claims U.S. Ambassador 'Meddling'

PA0603015193 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
5 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Roberto Alonso Matute Vasquez, vice president of the National Congress, has accused U.S. Ambassador Crescencio Arcos of meddling in domestic problems. Nonetheless, Vasquez admitted the military have engaged in illegal competition by purchasing business enterprises that should be owned by the private sector.

"Even though I respect the opinion of the U.S. ambassador very much, it seems to me he insists on participating in issues that are strictly domestic," he pointed out.

Matute Vasquez confessed that he believes Arcos sometimes goes beyond his functions of an ambassador, whose mission is to strengthen the ties between his home country and the host country.

"Ambassador Arcos is meddling too much in our problems, and there is no doubt he is doing this in good faith, but the problem is that he is intervening in our strictly domestic problems," he emphasized.

He said, however, he shared the opinions of the controversial diplomat because he comes from a nation where military power is subordinate to civilian power.

The vice president of congress said that the high-ranking Honduran officers have already accepted that they have no other alternative but to subordinate themselves to civilian power.

"We are not questioning the power of the Armed Forces. We accept it, we live it, and we struggle gradually to change this situation. Mr. Arcos is a courageous man who openly says that the influence of the Armed Forces in civilian affairs is very strong," he added.

He stated that in other parts of the world the Armed Forces do not have their own business enterprises as they do in Honduras.

"We, as deputies, are obligated to make revisions in the various laws so that at the proper time, the Armed Forces will no longer participate in private enterprise. Although we do not like it, it is illegal competition for the military to purchase enterprises," he admitted.

Matute Vasquez hopes that the Ad Hoc Commission appointed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas will consider the charges made by Crescencio Arcos.

Nicaragua

U.S. Embassy Employees Allegedly Trafficking Visas

PA0603211593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
6 Mar 93, pp 1, 10

[Report by Noel Irias and Jilma Rodriguez]

[Text] An investigative report by BARRICADA has revealed that Nicaraguan personnel working for the U.S. Embassy and the AID mission in Managua are participating in trafficking U.S. visas.

A source close to the U.S. Embassy admitted that "the trafficking exists, but it is not known how they get the visas."

This network combines influence peddling with business. Political and personal relationships are important in this business. An example of how this network operates is a Mrs. Roa—whose husband is a member of Mayor Arnoldo Aleman's close circle of friends—who offers U.S. visas for sale at \$1,000 in her home town, in the western part of the country.

Our sources say Mrs. Roa takes advantage of her political and friendly relations with the embassy's personnel to get the visas. BARRICADA has the names of some of the people who have bought visas.

A man by the name of William has served as a contact for some foreigners who have bought forged Nicaraguan passports and are trying to get U.S. visas.

Some of the sellers are officials of, or work for organizations linked to the U.S. Embassy and AID. They charge between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for a visa.

A Mr. Ramirez who works for AID offers to get the visa for \$1,000, and this includes a new passport. This man's clients are generally citizens who could not get the visa through legal means.

In front of the U.S. Embassy in Managua at peak visiting hours, it is common to run into "coyotes" who are trying to buy passports right there.

The "coyotes" are part of the same network BARRICADA reported on a few days ago. There are some of them who offer visas, but in this case they offer good quality forgeries.

A Very Dynamic Duo

One of the contacts for getting these forgeries is a duo formed by a reknown lawyer, whose offices are located in a neighborhood close to the Santos Lopez Building, and a Mr. Gutierrez.

However, the citizens who buy these forgeries are discovered as soon as they reach the United States, because U.S. visas have over 30 security codes and, therefore, are almost impossible to forge.

That same lawyer serves as the contact to obtain fake birth certificates at the Public Registry of Managua, which are later used to make passports.

The First "Bird" Is Captured

In the meantime, the Economic Investigations Directorate of the police confirmed that Mexican national Francisco Javier Banquels Moreno, 29, who was arrested by the Ocotol police, is linked to the passport trafficking network.

According to Captain Angel Mericy, chief of Police Information, this man carried out "obscure activities" in Esteli, Pueblo Nuevo, and Ocotol.

According to the investigations, Banquels asked over 100 young persons for their birth certificates, I.D.-size photographs, and letters of recommendation to employ them in a supposed housing construction company, INVIRSA [expansion unknown], with offices in front of the National Institute in Esteli.

The youths, all male except for one lady whom he would hire as his secretary, were very enthusiastic about this job opportunity. However, the activities of the Mexican, who was posing as a civil engineer, alerted the police.

Upon being arrested, Banquels Moreno said he had lost his passport, but in the end he confessed that he had been in Nicaragua illegally for one and a half years, and that he entered the country through a 'blind point' in El Espino.

The police seized the documents he had requested from the youths and, according to a police officer, they are continuing the investigations and there is a possibility that he may be deported to Mexico. Capt. Mericy said the Mexican national's story is still not very clear.

Esteli Mayor Ulises Gonzalez warned citizens and said that "all housing projects have to be carried out in coordination with the mayoralties and we do not know any company called INVIRSA."

Lacayo on Reserves, Frozen U.S. Aid, Trip to Mexico

PA0703181193 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1230 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Upon returning from Mexico, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has said that Senator Jesse Helms has led the movement against the disbursement of aid to Nicaragua since mid-1992.

He said we should realize that Senator Helms is Nicaragua's enemy; that Helms does not like this government and would have preferred a military solution to our country's problems.

Lacayo added that during his visit to Mexico he made an on-site assessment of the results of the national Solidarity Program, which President Carlos Salinas launched when he assumed office in 1988. He said he accompanied Salinas on a very interesting two-day tour of Veracruz State.

As to whether Nicaragua's reserves are exhausted, Lacayo said the finance minister actually meant reserves have dropped but are not at a critical level. In fact, the economic cabinet has adopted precautionary measures over the past few months. Lacayo said he discussed a bridge loan for Nicaragua with President Salinas during his visit to Mexico:

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] Reserves have dropped but they have not reached a critical level. In fact, the economic cabinet adopted precautionary measures over the past few months.

I met with President Salinas in Mexico to discuss [5-second break in reception] funds of the Inter-American Development Bank that will be disbursed in four to five months.

I am completely sure the Clinton administration will disburse the \$50 million the Bush administration withheld. I will travel with Chamorro administration officials to Washington on 15 March to meet with the new government and Congress officials, a majority of whom are Democratic Party members, to try to release that aid.

The Mexican Government, through President Salinas, showed great interest in our electoral activities. When President Salinas visited Nicaragua, he confirmed that President Chamorro is making efforts to change the economy and is promoting democracy, reconciliation, and understanding among Nicaraguans. I think we have a very important defender in him.

[Unidentified reporter] Can we say, then, that the economic stability enjoyed after the second phase of the plan you revealed on 10 January will be maintained?

[Lacayo] There should be no problem with that. It is important to point out that we must move on to a growth phase in which businessmen have a role. It is not simply a matter of worrying about the situation, but of doing something to improve it. I think businessmen can do a great deal just by closely monitoring the aid disbursement. [end recording]

Leal on Release of U.S. Economic Aid

PA0603020593 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1830 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] On 5 March Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal confirmed that on 4 March he received by fax the U.S.

Government agreement permitting Dr. Roberto Mayorga to present his credentials as Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington.

In addition, the foreign minister referred to the steps being taken worldwide to release U.S. economic aid. He added the aid could be unfrozen this month. Leal denied the country is being pressured to present a report on the reality of the country in exchange for the delivery of the aid.

[Begin recording] [Leal] On 4 March we received by fax the U.S. Government agreement accepting Dr. Roberto Mayorga as Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington. At this time, we are preparing his credentials and he will soon be in Washington.

[Unidentified Reporter] What embassy [words indistinct] to Dr. Palacios?

[Leal] Not yet. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Is Dr. Mayorga the only one receiving [words indistinct]?

[Leal] We decided on 4 March [words indistinct] Dr. Mayorga.

[Reporter] What other steps will be taken [words indistinct]?

[Leal] We are talking to various personalities from different countries who can help to release the aid. You heard the statements by [words indistinct] in Washington. I feel that the \$50 million will be disbursed soon.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Leal] I outlined that in my speech. This is a commission created to seek peace in times of conflict in Central America and establish democracy in all Central American countries. Peace is already a fact and the democratization processes are becoming stronger, especially in Nicaragua. The challenge ahead is development.

This commission will work to make proposals and studies on how to insert Central America in international markets and how to view the relations between developed and underdeveloped countries, such as Nicaragua. It will also work to try to promote real economic development in our country.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] mediation of Senator Sanford or the commission to obtain the \$50 million in frozen aid?

[Leal] Well, since the commission [words indistinct] a different commission. I have already informed Senator Sanford about this matter. Everything he said are positive signs for Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] Is it true that Nicaragua is preparing a special report for President Clinton that will help release the aid?

[Leal] Well, we are constantly informing the U.S. Senate, as well as the U.S. Administration through the State Department [words indistinct] President Clinton, of the

advancements of democracy in our country. We also presented these reports to European countries and the San Jose IX Meeting, as they display the reality of Nicaraguans, which we want to share with those who helped us attain peace and tolerance.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] \$50 million?

[Leal] I would say that we hope the \$50 million be disbursed during the month of March.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a report on Nicaragua. Was this a routine report?

[Leal] The new administration is requesting reports from different countries. We were interested in the situation of the \$50 million, which has not yet been disbursed. In line with this, the U.S. State Department has drafted a report, which will go through the National Security Council, and will eventually reach President Clinton. That is why we hope we will receive the \$50 million in March. We are aware of the pressing need for that contribution. [end recording]

Finance Minister Reports International Reserves Down

PA0603184493 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Mar 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Text] Finance Minister Emilio Pereira on 4 March disclosed that the level of Nicaraguan international reserves has dropped due to the withholding of \$50 million in U.S. aid to Nicaragua. He added that the government has been dealing with this situation by arranging stopgap loans.

"We have lost reserves," Pereira told the National Assembly Economic Affairs Commission, which he addressed on 4 March to explain his Ministry's budget and other issues involving national finances.

Pereira said "if anything is currently scarce" it is our reserves. He reminded the commission that Nicaragua is a country that survives largely on donations and stopgap loans from friendly governments.

The finance minister announced that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who is in Mexico learning about that country's experience with its economic reactivation program, is arranging a stopgap loan "to continue dealing with this situation (the reserves) as it did last year."

Pereira's concerns coincide with a recent announcement by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo regarding his trip to Washington within the next few days to arrange for the disbursement of \$50 million in U.S. aid, which has been withheld since November by the Bush administration.

Meanwhile, seven U.S. congressmen and senators sent a letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher asking him to suspend U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan Government, alleging that money from the United States has served largely to enrich the political classes.

Pereira also announced that as part of the "Austerity and Resource Rationing Plan" arranged for 1993, within the next few days the state will put its 5,000 vehicles on sale to the public.

"If the state sells a good number of these vehicles it will be contributing to the Austerity Plan we have been promoting," he said.

In reference to other topics, Pereira said that the government will continue to work on a permanent study of state reform. He urged the Economic Affairs Commission to contribute opinions on the types of state organizations Nicaragua should have within the next few years.

He said that privatization in Nicaragua is a process that "does not produce money," as happens in other Latin American countries, adding that most of the institutions have been sold on credit and with grace periods.

Pereira pointed out that 50 percent of the General Budget for 1993 was earmarked for social programs; 483 million cordobas were allotted to education; and 481 million to health, unprecedented figures in Nicaraguan budgetary history.

The General Budget for 1993 is 2,535 billion cordobas, and according to the breakdown, almost half of it has been distributed to the areas of education and health, which are priorities for the country's development.

"This budget focuses more on social issues than any other Latin American country's budget," Pereira said, warning that any "drastic measures" introduced by the National Assembly's Economic Affairs Commission could seriously affect the whole budget.

EPS Officers Report on Budget

PA0503192093 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Edgard Barbarena]

[Text] The Armed Forces have decided to abstain from purchasing helicopters made by U.S., Canadian, and French-German companies. The Army's 1993 budget is less than the cost of an F-16 aircraft, which is valued at \$25 million.

The EPS [Sandinist People's Army] analyzed proposals made by the U.S. firm Bell Helicopter, as well as offers from other countries. The average cost of a helicopter capable of transporting 11 soldiers costs up to \$4 million. For an army with a budget of only 219 million cordobas, this is an impossible figure.

U.S. helicopters do not have the same combat personnel transport capability as do helicopters from the former Soviet Union, which are capable of transporting at least 30 soldiers. It was decided to continue using helicopters made in the former Soviet Union.

Helicopters are necessary in the struggle against sea piracy. They are also necessary in EPS rescue operations. Of the \$20 million earned from aircraft sales to Peru, between \$8 and \$10 million will be used to purchase spare parts for helicopters made in the former Soviet Union, which are still being used by the Air Force.

The Navy is faced with a similar situation because the cost of a patrol boat is at least \$2.5 million. Nicaragua's losses resulting from sea piracy will easily double the 1993 military budget. These issues were discussed by Colonel Oswaldo Lacayo, second chief of the EPS general staff, during his 3 March appearance before the National Assembly Economic Affairs Commission. Col. Lacayo pointed out that it costs at least half a million dollars to replace the motor of an An-26 aircraft.

Another factor affecting the replacement of aircraft in Nicaragua is the cost increase of aircraft and other military equipment in the former Soviet Union. It is still possible to purchase cheaper Mig aircraft from former socialist countries such as Czechoslovakia.

On 3 March, Col. Lacayo and Lieutenant Colonel Mario Cardenal, who is also the EPS' financial expert, explained the distribution of the defense budget. According to both military officers, the budget had been drastically reduced as result of the economic measures and adjustments implemented by the government on 10 January.

The military officers noted that for the first time in the history of the Legislative Assembly, issues related to the EPS military expenditures are being discussed openly. The government will only grant the EPS (15,000 units) to "operate under basic conditions".

Lecture

Col. Lacayo practically gave the Legislative Assembly an open lecture on EPS related matters. He discussed the personnel reduction process in the armed forces and compared it to information provided by international organizations on Latin American armies.

Lacayo said that in 1989 when the pacification process began, the EPS had approximately 55 soldiers per 1,000 adults.

International Organizations

Col. Lacayo said that in 1992, there were 7.9 soldiers per 1,000 adults. International organizations such as the Strategic International Studies Institute [Instituto de Estudios Internacionales Estrategicos] in London, and the Peace Investigation International Institute [Instituto para la Investigacion Internacional de la Paz] in Stockholm, have studied Nicaragua's military expenses throughout the years.

Those studies indicate that Latin America spends approximately \$32 per \$1,000 of their gross national product [GNP] in defense activities and military equipment. Nicaragua was an exception to the rule, spending \$104 per \$1,000 of its GNP in 1989 on military expenditures. In 1985, Nicaragua was engaged in a civil war and its military expenses grew even higher. In 1992, "we spent \$24 per \$1,000 of GNP on military-related matters. This makes Nicaragua, according to the studies, the country with the lowest military expenses in Latin America. [No ending quotation mark as published]

According to those studies, the average yearly expense for each active soldier in Latin America is approximately \$4,000 a year. The average yearly expense in Nicaragua for each active soldier is approximately \$2,600 a year. This is less than 40 percent of the Latin American average. Such statistics demonstrate that the EPS has had large cutbacks in the past years.

Reduction Rate

Col. Lacayo stated that the EPS had reduced its forces from 134,000 soldiers in January 1987 to 98,000 in December 1989; a yearly reduction in personnel of 8.89 percent. He added that the reduction rate for the January 1990 to November 1992 period was approximately 27.8 percent.

If the statistics were compared—the EPS is giving several economic researchers the necessary information for this purpose—the 1990-92 annual troop reduction rate of 27.83 percent would be higher than the combined annual troop reduction rates of the three previous years. The average yearly reduction rate after 1990 is higher than the combined reduction rates prior to 1987.

Lacayo stated that the Armed Forces expenses had been reduced also. The Army had a budget of \$103 million in 1990, a \$72 million budget in 1991, and a \$42.9 million budget in 1992.

"During this period, we had a 58.35 percent reduction in expenditures. The average yearly reduction rate is 29 percent. The information is easily understood with an objective attitude," he said. "It seems to us that in the past three years, the expense decrease, which had an average of about 29.17 percent, was higher than the 27.8 percent military personnel reduction average," Lacayo added.

The EPS personnel and expense reduction process has made Nicaragua the Latin American country with the lowest military expense rate per capita. The reduction in defense expenses has reached an unprecedented level in Latin America. The EPS has been able to slice its expenses through reducing the amount of garrisons from 350 to 60.

Political Opposition Alliance Prepares Its Darts

To counter the darts that the Political Opposition Alliance is preparing to throw at the Armed Forces, we must point out that, according to the government's regional commitments at the Defense and Security Commission, and according to President Violeta Chamorro's June

1990 reduction program, the Army will be reduced to 35,000 men by 1995. The EPS, however, currently only has 15,200 men. This makes us the country with the smallest army in Central America.

Cesar on Rift With Presidency, Solution

PA0603164293 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish
2200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Justo Rufino Meneses]

[Text] National Opposition Union [UNO] leaders held a news conference with local media on 5 March at UNO headquarters. They announced the UNO foreign relations commission will send to the OAS [Organization of American States] [words indistinct] including unconstitutional way in which the National Assembly directorate board was appointed and issues the UNO has proposed for discussion with the presidency of the republic.

We asked Engineer Alfredo Cesar about the most difficult issues with which the government must comply if the OAS asks the presidency to do it. This is what Eng. Cesar said:

[Begin recording] [Cesar] The UNO has issued its list of topics. I think it includes eight points. Two of them are mentioned given their importance, meaning the reinstatement of constitutional order, which was disrupted by the blow dealt at the assembly; and the resumption of parliamentary activities, starting with elections to appoint directorate board members.

The Judicial Branch problem includes the ownership issue and the impunity of groups that sow violence. Obviously, the government must stop ruling the country with the Sandinist National Liberation Front and start ruling with UNO as it was stated in the government platform.

[Meneses] Sir, what are the most difficult issues the government has to settle, based on your list of demands?

[Cesar] I believe the government must [4-second break in reception] to show its goodwill—meaning that it wants to solve the country's problems. The other problems must be jointly solved with the UNO. [end recording]

Defectors Report on Clandestine Organization

PA0503235393 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 4
Mar 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] The dreaded terrorist and clandestine organization Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI] is led from behind the scenes by Commander Lenin Cerna, head of the Defense Information Directorate, formerly known as the Directorate General for State Security [DGSE]. This is what two former DGSE members and Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] informers told this newspaper. The men, who left the FPI, asked that their names be withheld.

"We wish to report to the Nicaraguan people and the world in general, who stand behind FPI, why these forces

came about, who belongs to this group, and what their purposes are," the two former members said.

With fear in their voices, the men warned that, should these terrorist forces succeed in consolidating as a clandestine organization, they would become Latin America's new Shining Path or Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

The informers said the majority of former DGSE members and FSLN collaborators are frightened because they have been pressured into joining FPI lest "their lives and those of their relatives be in danger."

The defectors say FPI's plans are "gruesome and inhuman" and that the organization has drafted a long list of names of politicians, businessmen, farmers, government officials, and others, all of them regarded as bourgeoisie "ideologists." These forces reportedly intend to boycott strategic points of the local economy to prevent the consolidation of the "neoliberal model" of "the new bourgeoisie that has taken power."

In Jinotega recently, former Lieutenant Colonel Frank Ibarra Rojas told several international news agencies that he is an FPI leader, that these forces claimed responsibility for the Arges Sequeira assassination, and that Arges Sequeira had been killed because he was "an enemy of the proletariat."

Sequeira, assassinated on 23 November 1992, was president of the Association of Confiscated Property Owners and Agricultural and Livestock Producers of Nicaragua, as well as vice president of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party.

After the 1990 elections, the FSLN suffered a schism that had been brewing from the time it assumed office on 19 July 1979 to February 1990, when the National Opposition Unity [UNO] won the elections.

According to the FPI defectors, the UNO victory led to this violent situation, which is now revealed in the division within the Sandinist party.

The two men said the FSLN is split among militants, center leftists, and far leftists, from which the FPI emerged.

The far-leftist sector, FPI, is the most consistent, favoring a "renovation" through class slogans, armed actions, and the emergence of new leaders for the 1996 elections.

The dissidents say it is urgent that the FSLN not disappear in a new electoral defeat. For this reason, working groups have been designated to recover lost ground through well-known methods, such as "clandestinity and subversion."

This new strategy is based on "retouching" their old political and ideological programs in the hope of "recovering the revolutionary mystique" that during the Somozist era marked them as "one of the strongest popular leaders" to take over the country.

This role of "renovator" and savior of the party has fallen on an organization that is mentioned infrequently in the media, and yet, it is as important as the very structure of the party. (It is the Information Directorate for Defense [Direccion de Informacion para la Defensa], DID, which replaced the former General Directorate of State Security, DGSE.)

This organization is in charge of Army troop actions, political dragnets, and of increasing division within the ranks of the main opposition parties over the state of democracy in Nicaragua.

The dissidents claim this directorate follows the slogan: The end justifies the means. They recall the former DGSE "was the FSLN's political police that was capable of bringing about the most surprising changes in the correlation of power not only within its party and current government, but even abroad with a good number of well-trained international agents."

According to the dissidents' testimony, the FPI is assuming the role of an alleged new leftist organization seeking three great objectives:

- First: Neutralize parties that do not "respect" FSLN actions through propaganda terror and armed actions.
- Second: Bring about the government's economic downfall by creating international distrust and spreading this feeling at home among the masses to capitalize on this situation later. There are also actions called economic recovery against the enemy (assaults and kidnappings with weapon in hand).
- Third: Assume the new image of an alleged guerrilla that retakes old virtues and is detached from the FSLN; assume the image of "a renewed Sandinism" that will "eliminate vices." The aim is to reattract the "masses and dissidents" that brought them to power years ago. (All this with 1996 in mind.)

The top leadership is based on a body specialized in secret work. "This is obviously the DID (formerly DGSE). There is, however, a possibility the movement could be discovered inadvertently by police, citizens, opponents, investigative reporters, or others at any given moment," the former security agent and FPI member added.

The dissidents claim FPI members do not follow the FPI structure and are under a fictitious leadership that covers up for Lenin Cerna, their real top leader.

The fake command is comprised of the best "cadres" within the DGSE members, and well-known activists, supported by two "talented" party ideologists.

According to the secret document's table of organization, which was delivered to LA PRENSA, there is a level made up of the so-called Clandestine Liaison Directorate, which is handled by a mid-level chief.

These liaison members (there is one for each mid-level chief) are unaware of each other's identity and they only establish contact through the "fake" command. Liaison members "relay mid-level members' work and political

and military instructions." They have no contact with the DID, which is handled by Lenin Cerna.

Mid-level commanders are not aware of each other's identity, either. They lead armed cells made up primarily of five men and are handled independently.

According to the document presented by former security and FPI members, the Managua commands currently are divided in three zones: a) eastern zone; b) western zone; and c) central zone. There is also a regional command and a rural command.

"The latter was created for international publicity purposes and to take the pressure off urban members, whose clandestine nature is endangered. The mountain front is characterized by the fact that its role is no longer very important because there are no armed forces that might threaten its members," stated the document sent to LA PRENSA by the two collaborators.

The document adds: Cell members act as recruitment agents in charge of looking for possible FPI members. Selection is based on each recruit's abilities, because he can be selected for the role of fighter or economic supplier; or he can be put in charge of safe houses and training camps.

According to the document, the FPI social structure is made up mostly of historical FSLN activists, meaning former DGSE officers who handled confidential information and achieved a mid-level military rank or a privileged position.

All this information is confidential and it was outlined after the Sandinists suffered the election defeat. We have been able to publish part of the information thanks to former DGSE and FPI officers.

The document points out that a candidate's admission to the FPI is determined by the confirmation of missions entrusted to him (in other words thefts, murders, kidnappings, harassment, and other actions).

The dissidents' document specifies: "As you can see, it is no mere coincidence that former Lieutenant Colonel Frank Ibarra is one of the FPI mid-level commanders in the mountains. During the Sandinists' 10-year rule he was chief of the DGSE's much-feared F-7, which was in charge of confirming and supplying information to other state security sections."

The organization created the so-called "divine hordes" within the infamous Sandinist Defense Committees, the people's inspectors, the revolutionary vigilantes, the espionage networks, and other groups handled by the Sandinist regime.

The FPI will continue with the same pressure-exerting methods used by the defunct state security organizations. This includes accidents, defamation, psychological pressure, destruction of family groups, and—for "the tough"—torture and assassination.

"We report these evil forces so the citizens may clearly know about their tricks and shady maneuvers against honest Nicaraguans because we are not fools who can be subject to deceit. We have shed much blood, but we will never again be puppets," one of the paragraphs of the document prepared by two former DGSE and FPI members firmly stated.

Panama

Article Views U.S. 'Hypocrisy' Toward Panama

PA0503183593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish > Mar 93 p 6A

["Hidden Truths" column by Tomas Cabal: "The United States Maintains a Hypocritical Policy Toward Panama"]

[Text] Apart from the prevailing corruption within Guillermo Endara's government and the proclivity of politicians, and the fact that businessmen and lawyers pursue the illegal and irregular "deals" they perfected during the Noriega narcodictatorship, it is evident that the United States is still implementing a hypocritical policy toward Panama.

This hypocrisy, which in English sounds better (The Double Standard) [preceding three words in English], is aimed, among other things, at: 1. Making Panama liquidate the Colon Free Zone and the Banking Center, 2. Making Panama eliminate the fiscal advantages utilized by multinational and U.S. firms, and 3. Making Panama step up its struggle against drug trafficking and money laundering with its own resources.

With this system, which we could characterize as the "one-sided law," the Americans plan to take their war against drugs "to the last Latin American" [preceding five words in English]. They are unaware of the fact that the United States consumes the greatest amount of drugs and launders the largest amount of money.

Examples of Yankee hypocrisy and the duplicity that characterizes Uncle Sam's foreign relations should have gotten through to our politicians and rulers.

As one distinguished U.S. senator pointed out, "it is much easier from a political standpoint to fight against drugs and money laundering on the streets of Panama, Medellin, or Lima than it is on the streets of Miami, New York, or Los Angeles. Remember that U.S. society and Government are racists and basically anti-Hispanic. For Washington, what lies south of the Rio Grande is unimportant."

Adding this analysis to what is known as the "little mestizo syndrome" (little brown brother) [preceding words in English] policy, which tells us that Anglo-Saxon society is in permanent contact with a God that loves the "protestant work ethic" and materially rewards those people who "are with him," we can begin to understand, for example, why the CIA supported the coup by

Bolivian narcodictator Garcia Meza out of fear over the presidential election of "leftist Hernan Siles Suazo."

This was a coup that condemned certain Bolivian patriots to death, and which allowed the native drug-trafficking mafia to gain power in this Andean nation.

The hypocrisy and ignorance of the Potomac strategists, along with the latent racism that characterizes all U.S. Governments, should serve as a clear warning to our governments that it is essential to take the initiative in all affairs involving our well-being and national sovereignty. As long as the banking center and the Colon Free Zone continue to disregard the money laundering and drug-trafficking issues, as long as our politicians turn a blind eye to the increasing criminal activity of the Colombian drug cartels, to that same extent the "Colossus of the North" will impose its medicine or purgative [purgante] on us "which may prove worse than the ailment."

Therefore, we should take the initiative and clean our house before our powerful northern neighbors do it for us.

Endara Reiterates Determination Not To Renegotiate Treaties

PA0703182193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 93 p 2a

[Report by Vilma Figueroa]

[Text] As the official responsible for managing the country's foreign affairs, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has reiterated that during his administration he will not negotiate or modify the Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed by Panama and the United States in 1977.

Endara emphasized that he will not negotiate any modifications to the Panama Canal Treaties or propose that the presence of the U.S. military bases in the country be extended beyond the year 2000.

"I am the one who manages the government's foreign affairs," the president stated.

Endara was responding to questions posed by reporters regarding Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles' statements that the military bases issue should be studied thoroughly, as apparently there are some fears about confronting the country's real situation and the negative effects of the military bases' withdrawal.

The president pointed out that he respects the comptroller's opinions, and although he unfortunately did not agree with Carles on this occasion, the difference does not damage their friendship or the respect they have for one another.

Endara explained to reporters that he had not mentioned the amnesty bill during his speech at the installation of the second term of the Legislative Assembly's fourth period of sessions because he had only referred to the bills presented by the executive branch.

The president said the amnesty bill had been presented by Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd as one of his party's legislative initiatives.

The amnesty bill, which should go to a second debate in the Legislative Assembly, proposes the release of political prisoners and the return of members of the previous government who sought asylum in foreign countries.

PTJ Operation Yields Arrests, Weapons Confiscations

PA0503173793 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report by Alessandra Ciniglio]

[Text] Three people were arrested and a cache of weapons was confiscated during a covert operation conducted by the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ].

In Chiriqui, narcotics agents discovered a Spaniard and a Panamanian selling the weapons to two Colombian drug traffickers.

[Begin PTJ Inspector Jarvis recording] Eight AK-47 rifles, two .22-caliber rifles, 10,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, and a number of magazines were confiscated. [end recording]

The weapons came from Central America with a final destination of Panama.

The Spaniard and the Panamanian are members of a group that was planning to sell the weapons for \$25,000. The group's mission is to supply weapons to groups of drug traffickers.

[Begin recording][Jarvis] According to reports, this group operates at a national level. They supply weapons to organizations that request them.

[Ciniglio] Is this part of a series of operations?

[Jarvis] It is the first operation we have conducted so far. [end recording]

The arms traders were using a Hyundai Excel vehicle, with license plate no. 4-5945. They also had another license plate, with number 6-233 from Herrera. According to documents found in the vehicle, it was owned by Abel Dominguez. Dominguez claims to have loaned the car to Aelina Vega. The legal status of the vehicle has not been cleared up yet. Three people have been arrested so far and are being held in a jail at the PTJ Narcotics Office. One of the Colombians escaped during the operation.

Argentina

Police Report 2 Bombs Detonate in Offices

PY0603135093 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1239 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Mendoza, 6 Mar (TELAM)—Police have reported that two bombs detonated at the administrative offices of the Transportes Automotores de Cuyo (TAC) Company last night, causing damage, but there were no victims.

At 2325, the two bombs went off simultaneously at the TAC building on Godoy Cruz and Mitre Streets, in Guaymallen District. Police have also reported that, so far, the reasons for the bomb attack are unknown.

Ex-De Facto President States No Regret for 'Anything'

PY0503185893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1148 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (NA)—Former de facto President General Leopoldo Galtieri, retired, said here today that he does not regret "anything" about the decisions he made during his mandate, and he said that "there are things I would do over, improving upon them if possible."

Galtieri, who promoted a war against the United Kingdom in the Malvinas Islands in April 1982, said that "given the circumstances" in the country at the time, he did what he thought "was suitable for the well-being of the Argentine people."

The former military chief made these statements to Radio Continental, after having not made any comments in public for the past 11 years.

The following is the dialogue he maintained with the radio station:

Question: General, how are you, what became of you?

Answer: I am very well, attentive to everything that goes on in the world and in the country. I read all I can, and of course, I am enjoying my family. I follow current events as much as I can; it is a passion I have had for many years, so I cannot go against my feelings.

Question: Can we say that [words indistinct] military with strong political (?inclinations)?

Answer: There have been times during my 40 years of service when circumstances dictated my participation.

Question: Did you read [General Reinaldo Benito] Big-none's book?

Answer: I have not had the pleasure.

Question: What do you think about what is going on in the country?

Answer: I do not want to express my opinion about current or past political events.

Question: What do you think about the current negotiations for a wage increase for the military?

Answer: It is not in keeping with the mission of sacrifice and the demands of the military career.

Question: Do you think the military should not intervene in the political life of the country?

Answer: That is not the normal mission of a soldier, and I think he rebels when domestic and international contexts lead him to such a situation. The ideal would be for the country to permanently live within constitutional norms, for centuries.

Question: What do you regret after having abandoned public life for 11 years?

Answer: I do not regret anything, given the circumstances at the time. Of course, in life one must always improve, and there are things I would do over, improving upon them if possible.

Commentary Criticizes Galtieri's Remarks

PY0503193293 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1529 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, former de facto Argentine president, today said: There are things that I would do over and, if possible, improve upon. Galtieri is the military chief who headed the frustrated war against Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands in 1982. He told Radio Continental in Buenos Aires: I do not regret anything. Considering the circumstances at the time, I do not regret anything.

Here are Pedro Olgo Ochoa's comments on the issue:

First, I would like to know the time of day when Gen. Galtieri made these comments. Second, I would like to ask what the parents of the thousands of young men who lost their lives in the Malvinas think about the issue.

Everytime I see that cemetery, those little crosses at the Malvinas cemetery marking the tombs of our young fellow countrymen, of those untrained young men who were sent by this gentleman to face an army as professional as that of Great Britain, I wonder. Those young recruits had only had two or three months of military training, and Galtieri made them fight an army as professional as the British Army. [passage omitted]

By 2 April 1982 Argentina had established contact with the Malvinas. Argentina had succeeded in entering the Malvinas, and there was traffic and exchange between the two territories. Some Malvinas residents came to Argentine territory, and Argentines went to the Malvinas Islands.

It is therefore a very serious matter to recognize that Gen. Galtieri regrets nothing, not even the death of these young men whom he forced to fight against a professional army. Does he feel no regret even in the cases of these young Argentines, who lost their lives there, and of their families who live in our country?

One is constantly wondering: Why the Malvinas? We always end up clashing with this false feeling of patriotism. Patriotism must be expressed in another way—by working every day, by respecting the national symbols, by respecting the family, by respecting all these values, and not by going to a war such as the Malvinas war. [passage omitted]

I could say that I feel as if I were reading old newspapers. As if I were reading dailies dated April 1983. The country has progressed, but these drawbacks make me feel as if I were reading newspapers that were 12 years old. This is horrible for any nation.

Two Peruvians Seek Asylum in Jujuy Province

PY0603221693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1237 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy, 5 Mar (TELAM)—Two Peruvian citizens who are members of Peru's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) have sought political asylum in Jujuy Province. The local immigration office has granted them a 30-day temporary permit to stay in the country.

The Peruvian citizens are Jesus Nola Cazana Rosales and Hugo Edgar Rosales Urbano, who are approximately 25 to 30 years old. They met with Martin Jorge, bloc leader of the Jujuy Popular Movement in the provincial congress, and claimed to be APRA members. It has also been reported that they have been to the local government house.

Arsenio Gallardo, chief of the Jujuy Provincial Police, confirmed to TELAM the presence of the two Peruvian citizens in that city. It was reported that they entered Argentina through La Quiaca (Argentina) from Villazon (Bolivia), and that they would like to travel to the southern part of Argentina.

Army Chief of Staff on Salary Increase, Defense Minister

PY0503164893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1333 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Mendoza, 4 Mar (NA)—Army Chief of Staff General Martin Balza has stated that salary "is an essential matter not only for the Army, but for the Armed Forces, but this has not been a reason for unrest."

Balza said: "We have not been receiving any pressure from the government, and have been discussing this delicate topic with Defense Ministry authorities exclusively."

Concerning the change of defense minister, Balza said: "A chief of staff should not voice an opinion on the president's political decisions, but I can make assurances that we maintain a smooth and mutually respectful relationship with Minister Gonzalez."

Commenting on Oscar Camilion, he said that "considering the personality and professional performance of the future minister, I have no doubt that the Armed Forces will also maintain good relations with him."

Brazil

President Signs Bill Granting Union Leaders Amnesty

PY0503151793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Live report from Planalto Palace by Luis Augusto Mendonca]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has just signed the bill granting amnesty to union leaders and representatives who from October 1988 to today have suffered punishment for political reasons or their participation in demonstrations.

According to the bill just approved by President Franco, union leaders and representatives dismissed for political reasons will receive salaries corresponding to the period of the disciplinary dismissal.

Those leaders will be reinstated to their respective jobs with all rights guaranteed. The bill will benefit some 3,000 union leaders throughout the country.

Franco Decides To Call Meeting on Economic Policy

PY0603131593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Mar 93 p 8

[Excerpts] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco has decided to call a meeting of politicians and businessmen to try to reach an understanding on the economic policy the government must adopt. On leaving the presidential office yesterday, after an hour of talks, Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia stated that Franco's intention is to "dialogue." Last night the president called Chamber of Deputies leader Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party—Pernambuco], Senate leader Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party—Rio Grande do Sul], and Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso to a meeting at Planalto Palace. Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho was also received by the president at an unscheduled meeting.

The quest for an understanding was prompted by the reaction of politicians, and especially businessmen, to the designation of Eliseu Resende to replace Paulo Haddad as finance minister, and to the decision to freeze

prices of staples sold by the Somar supermarket chain, suggesting the possibility of adopting a freeze of all economic activity. [passage omitted]

After the meeting with Itamar Franco, Governor Helio Garcia left convinced that the president "knows that inflation must and will drop, because it cannot continue between 28 and 30 percent, but it will not be achieved through shock treatment." He added: "I am leaving here very calm and certain that the government is not preparing any package." Nevertheless, Garcia warned that "if there is a plan it will be met with my complete disagreement." [passage omitted]

Resende Says No New Economic Plan Ready

PY0603024493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Mar 93 p 21

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Eliseu Resende yesterday said the government has not worked out any economic plan. According to Deputy Arnaldo Faria de Sa, President Itamar Franco on 3 March told him that a new economic plan will be worked out in 15 days. Yesterday, besides saying that there will not be an economic plan, Minister Resende said he does not need the support of legislators for his nomination.

"There are no plans. There is work. We will have everyone's support," Resende said.

Civil Household Minister Henrique Hargreaves, who met with Minister Resende at the Finance Ministry during the morning, also denied the existence of any economic plan. According to Hargreaves, President Itamar Franco did not ask Resende to produce any economic plan to be implemented in the next 15 days.

Hargreaves said the economy minister's delay in going to the Senate was due to lack of time, adding that since 1 March, when he was nominated, Resende has been getting acquainted with the ministry's economic numbers and programs in order to present a good argument in favor of the IPMF [provisional tax on financial operations].

Hargreaves said he has no information on senators' changes on the IPMF vote scheduled for 10 March as a result of the nomination of Resende as finance minister. Hargreaves said various senators called him to deny they had changed their votes on the IPMF. Hargreaves said the palace is not interfering in the nomination of candidates to head the Central Bank board of directors.

Senate Said 'Rocked' by Finance Minister Nominee

PY0403205893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 93 p 5

[Article by Marta Salomon]

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Eliseu Resende's nomination has rocked congressional support for the

government. President Itamar Franco was informed yesterday by Chamber of Deputies government leader Roberto Freire (People's Socialist Party deputy for Pernambuco State) and Senate government leader Pedro Simon about the political crisis created by the changes implemented in the economic area. Freire admitted: "The government knows there is unrest in Congress." While trying to neutralize reservations about Resende's visit to Congress on 4 March, Simon confirmed: "There are great doubts about the new minister."

During their talk with President Franco, the two congressional leaders defended the idea of suspending the nomination of Central Bank second-echelon members and directors. The president accepted their suggestion. Several senators had warned Simon they would vote against these nominations. The two congressional leaders also were concerned about Resende's indictment by the National Accounting Office as a result of irregularities during his years at the National Highway Department. In President Franco's opinion, this fact is "irrelevant."

Jose Fogaca, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) senator for Rio Grande do Sul State who was the fiscal reform bill rapporteur, said that in addition to rocking congressional support for the government, Haddad's replacement endangers the approval of the fiscal reform and the creation of the provisional tax on financial operations. Fogaca added: "Perplexity and uncertainty reign." He admitted that, in view of the recent facts, he may have to review his support for the reform. "Minister Haddad clearly had committed himself to assigning at least 50 percent of the new tax revenue to redeeming the public debt," Fogaca said. He added: "If the new minister says he will assign this money to public works, I will oppose his decision."

Senator Cid Saboia (PMDB-Ceara State) confirmed the possibility that many congressmen might change their minds regarding their votes. "Resende's nomination has been a very bad idea and harms the Franco administration's logic," Saboia explained. While calling for an immediate definition of the new minister's economic policy and for his declaration of assets, Elcio Alvares, Liberal Front Party (PFL) senator for Espirito Santo State, said: "The Senate has been rocked."

In the Chamber of Deputies, Resende's appointment also created difficulties. "We did not approve Collor's impeachment to have a person such as Eliseu Resende occupying a key position in the economic area," said Jose Genoino, Workers Party deputy for Sao Paulo. Former Minister Gustavo Krause (PFL-Pernambuco State) criticized the criteria used to nominate the Central Bank directors. He said: "Apparently, the financial area bureaucracy must be preserved at all costs."

Neither Freire nor Simon has any information on the contents of the speech Resende will deliver tomorrow during his visit to Congress. Although denying the possibility of an economic shock, Freire admits that "the economic policy will be corrected."

Interpol Offices in Sao Paulo, Rio Closed

PY0603005493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 93 p 6

[Article by Kassia Caldeira]

[Text] Disputes over second- and third-level posts and internal political fights within President Itamar Franco's government are so exasperated that nothing is spared, not even the police. Yesterday, Justice Minister Mauricio Correa ordered Federal Police Department Director Amaury Galdino to close the offices of Interpol—the international organization of criminal police—in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. He has thus wiped out the work achieved over the past few years by former Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma and intervened in the investigations into the wealth of former Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia.

Approving the closure of the Interpol offices, which operated in the offices of the Federal Police, the justice minister created a problem for federal prosecutors of the Sao Paulo Attorney General's Office who were about to ask Interpol for information on the investigations on the wealth of PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] National President Orestes Quercia and about his companies. PMDB members who oppose Quercia were surprised over the decision.

Furthermore, without their offices from Rio and Sao Paulo from which federal agents provided by the government operate, Interpol will be reduced to just a bureaucratic bureau [preceding word in English] in Brasilia, crammed with posts to be filled.

The federal police director—an adversary of his predecessor—decided to evict Interpol from those two states after learning that their agents captured, by request of its German office, two cocaine traffickers and fine art smugglers in Rio de Janeiro right after Carnival. Galdino learned about this case through O ESTADO and the idea of closing the international police offices in the country crystallized.

This decision goes against a resolution issued by President Itamar Franco and Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Right after Franco's inauguration the foreign minister told him to defend the need to remain affiliated to Interpol. The president not only agreed with the suggestion but ordered Justice Minister Mauricio Correa to send a letter to the Interpol president in France, announcing that the Brazilian Government wanted to remain as one of its members. Correa complied with the order.

Since his dismissal from the government, Romeu Tuma has headed Interpol activities in Brazil as world vice president, a post to which he was elected at the 1991 Interpol General Assembly. Interpol helped in the investigations in Brazil into the activities abroad of businessman Paulo Cesar [PC] Farias during the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] on PC. Moreover,

Interpol agents have arrested several Italian mafiosos and international trafficking rings with connections in Brazil.

BNDES Bank Chairman Tenders Resignation

PY0503151993 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Antonio Barros Castro, chairman of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development, BNDES, has just sent a letter to Planning Minister Yeda Crusius in which he has tendered his resignation.

In the letter he said that he was greatly discouraged with the bank's administration and that the major difficulties are inside the government itself.

Barros stated that the privatization program was the one most affected. The letter states that the problems he has been facing within the government have worsened with the publication of an interview with the attorney general published in today's O GLOBO.

Barros said there had been personal aggression against him in the interview. The letter concludes by saying that in face of the difficulties the administration is enduring, he has no other alternative but to submit his resignation.

Government Signs Agreements With China

PY0603020393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Brazil has signed two agreements with China, thus increasing to 30 the number of agreements already established by the two countries. The latest two agreements deal with partnerships in building hydroelectric dams, research development, and launching satellites.

Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso assessed trade between Brazil and China:

[Begin recording] Last year it increased very little, only to \$450 billion [as heard], but this year China will import goods worth \$60 billion [as heard] from Brazil. Brazil has a broad field to export to China. China also has expressed interest in importing wood, iron ore, and equipment we can produce. There is much room to expand trade relations with China. [end recording]

Last year, trade between the two countries dropped due to the absence of petroleum on the Chinese list of exports to Brazil.

*** Smuggler of Arms to South Africa Arrested**

93SM0149F Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jan 93 p 14

[Text] Yesterday, the Federal Police exhibited the 21 weapons—20 pistols and a revolver, mostly of the latest generation—that were confiscated on Sunday from David Johnson Wright, 53, a British subject and a systems analyst who was attempting to leave Brazil for

South Africa. The weapons were in small insulated bags that had been packed inside two suitcases. They had been bought in Miami, Florida for \$10,000 (about 160 million cruzeiros at the official rate) and were discovered by the antihijacking X-ray system installed at the Rio de Janeiro international airport. The shipment would be worth three times that figure if sold in Brazil.

The fire power of the weapons found on Wright—a weapons smuggler who traveled the Miami-Johannesburg route twice a month—astonished the veteran police officers who arrested him. Two kinds of Israeli-made pistols—Desert Eagle Magnums 357 and 44—are capable of killing 10 to 12 people with just one shot if they were lined up one behind the other. Most of the weapons were new to the Federal Police in Rio, who boasted about their find.

According to Chief Antonio Rayol, the arrest was made possible by either a strategic error or naivete on the part of the Britisher. He could have left the luggage for safekeeping at the airport when Varig, which was taking him from the United States to South Africa, announced that it could not continue the flight Saturday afternoon after the plane made a stop in Rio for mechanical reasons. Wright and other passengers on the flight were taken from the airport directly to the Othon Palace Hotel in Copacabana, where they were put up at the airline's expense.

Wright took the suitcases with him from the airport and returned the next day, intending to take Flight 828 to Johannesburg. The X-ray equipment in the terminal detected the weapons and the Britisher was arrested en flagrante. The smuggler's passport showed that he had been in Rio last October, and had stayed for 15 days. The police want to know whether he was also supplying weapons to Rio criminal elements.

*** 1992 Agricultural Production Up 20.5 Percent**
93SM0149G Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
22 Jan 93 p 19

[Text] Brazil's 1992 agricultural harvest totalled 67,677,000 tons, which was 20.5 percent larger than that of 1991 and only 5.77 percent below the record 1989 harvest of 71,820,000 tons. The figures were released yesterday by the Agricultural Department of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Preliminary estimates for 1993 call for a decline in production.

Brazil: Agricultural Production

Crop	Harvest (in million tons)
Rice	9.45
Dry Beans	2.74
Corn	23.74
Soybeans	14.93

Wheat	2.92
Note: Figures for 1992.	
Source: IBGE	

To economist Maria Jose Cyhlar of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), the 1992 harvest represents a good outcome, considering the drop in the population's purchasing power and the low level of prices for farm products. But she emphasizes that if Brazil's economy were not in crisis, this production would be too small for a country with a population of 146,000,000.

The products that made the biggest contribution to the 1992 results were corn (the first crop was up by 29.4 percent and the second by 20.25 percent); soybeans (28.17 percent); and first-crop dry beans (12.4 percent). Prominent on the negative side were white potatoes (down 15.09 percent) and coffee (down 14.92 percent).

It is estimated that the planted area for 1993 is 28,105,000 hectares, which is 2.41 percent less than in 1992. Preliminary projections indicate a drop in production of corn (down 7.51 percent); herbaceous cotton (down 18.82 percent), and onions (down 11.55 percent), and in other items. The soybean harvest is on an upward trend (11.79 percent). Soybean and corn are among this country's leading crops, but since corn yields are much higher, a reduction in its production has a stronger influence on the overall result than the increase in soybeans, the economist said, in explaining the reasons behind the smaller harvest forecast for this year.

Chile

Senator on 'Contradictory' Attitudes in Grape Case

PY0603153793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Excerpts] National Renewal Senator Sergio Romero said that there are contradictory attitudes inside the government regarding the poisoned grapes case, which is why the government has not resorted to the Bryan Commission. Romero rejected the statements made by Chilean Ambassador to the United States Patricio Silva Echenique, who had said that Chilean fruit growers received remuneration to solve their crisis. They were only given access to a special mechanism on the refund of their export tax, the cost of which was absorbed by foreign creditors, Romero said.

Senator Romero demanded that Ambassador Silva take back what he said, otherwise one would believe that the Chilean Government is unwilling to resort to the Bryan Commission. [passage omitted]

Romero said that in addition to Ambassador Silva, other Chilean Government officials have made contradictory statements to prevent Chile from resorting to the commission.

The Chilean Coordinating Board of Fruit and Vegetable Producers also rejected the statements made by Ambassador Silva in Washington, calling them inconvenient, unfounded, biased, and contrary to national interests. Fruit businessmen Ricardo Ariztia and Ronald Baum said that the diplomat's statements demonstrate a regrettable unawareness of the poisoned grapes case and the current situation.

The Chilean ambassador had said that 94 percent of the losses suffered by Chilean fruit growers as a consequence of the U.S. embargo on Chilean fruits has already been repaid. He said that the Pinochet administration paid Chilean fruit growers and exporters \$197 million through direct subsidies.

Ariztia and Baum said that the damage caused by the ignominious U.S. attitude amounted to \$350 million in the United States alone. If this is added to the decision adopted by other countries following the U.S. example, the damage amounts to more than \$400 million.

Colombia

Foreign Trade Minister on Free Trade Agreement

PA0503230593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Monica Echeverry]

[Text] Twenty-two years of dreaming and 15 months of negotiating were necessary for the Andean Pact to become a reality. The trade agreement reached on the night of 4 March by Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia is the most important such agreement reached among underdeveloped countries in the world.

Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia will be a free trade zone as of 1 January 1994, which is the largest unification on the American continent. The agreement will benefit over 150 million consumers from the four countries.

[Begin recording, Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos] This decision formalizes the customs unification. This is the most complete and profound integration process of any group of developing countries and, of course, it is the most complete integration that has taken place in the American hemisphere. [end recording]

The common tariff will allow the Andean countries to charge the same taxes for their purchases to third countries. If Colombia imports Dutch cheeses, they will pay the same tariff they would pay in Ecuador, Venezuela, and Bolivia.

In the negotiations carried out among the Andean Pact countries, the common tariff was the most technical and complicated agreement.

Whatever comes after that will be an extra. Financial integration is an example. It will allow draft exchanges

between countries. Another example is common freight transportation. It will virtually eliminate borders:

[Begin recording, Jose Cardenas, coordinator of Cartagena Agreement Board of Directors] It is basically a decision on various types of transportation that will allow member countries to complement their different means of transportation. [end recording]

The common tariff will allow Andean products to circulate tax free. As a result, we will soon see Boyaca beans in Caracas supermarkets and Ecuadorian ponchos entering Bolivia tax free.

Car Bomb Explosion in Capital Injures 3

PA0603024593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0224 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Mar (AFP)—At least three people were injured by a car bomb explosion near the installations of the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise in downtown Santa Fe de Bogota the night of 5 March, according to Metropolitan Police.

The explosion of an undetermined amount of dynamite caused extensive property damage in several buildings in the area, including a church and a university.

'At Least' 20 Buildings Damaged

PA0603042293 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0338 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...the permanent unit of Santa Fe de Bogota is drafting a report on the affected buildings. The buildings are old and were constructed many years ago in this area of Santa Fe de Bogota between 22d and 24th Streets. The first floor of the telecommunications company, located one block from the site of the car bomb explosion, was partially damaged. Its windows were shattered by the explosion.

The initial report by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Santa Fe de Bogota, which is the permanent unit of the capital of the Republic, indicates at least 20 buildings were damaged. Two of them are across the street from where the car bomb exploded; that is.... [pauses] the file storerooms of Tequendama Insurance Company were completely demolished. Two buildings will have to be demolished because their structures, the beams of these buildings located in the very heart of the Republic's capital, were partially damaged.

The police cordoned off the entire area and are maintaining continuous patrols in various parts of this downtown area of the Republic's capital to obtain composite pictures of the terrorists who planted and activated the car bomb at 2042 on the evening of 5 March. We repeat: there is an initial toll of 14 injured, one missing, and heavy structural damage.

Authorities Conclude Investigation

PA0603164193 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Investigators from the Prosecutor General's Office at dawn on 6 March concluded the required legal investigations and tests to establish the amount of explosives and the type of vehicle used in the terrorist attack that injured 27 people in downtown Santa Fe de Bogota.

Three Investigation Unit (Unidad de Permanencia) prosecutors and their respective investigators on the evening of 5 March arrived at the site of the terrorist attack to initiate a preliminary investigation. The results obtained thus far indicate that the terrorists apparently used a Renault-4 vehicle and 50 kg of dynamite.

The Investigation Unit took the testimony of 20 of the individuals injured during the attack, which took place a few meters from the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise.

Pablo Escobar Associate Surrenders to Agents

PA0603025193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Freddy Gonzalez Franco, alias Misterio, another member of the Medellin Cartel, surrendered to agents of the Attorney General's Office in Medellin. This brings the total of people close to Pablo Escobar who have surrendered to the authorities to 19. Freddy Gonzalez is the brother of Otoniel Gonzalez, alias Otto, who is in Itagui Prison.

Former Health Minister Kidnapped, Murdered

PA0503200993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 March 93

[Text] The body of Mauri Garcia Burgos, former health minister and Conservative Party leader in Cordoba, was found on 5 March. Garcia was kidnapped 4 March. Although authorities have no clue as to who was responsible, they do not rule out the possibility that he may have been killed by guerrillas. Mauri was health minister, representative, and senator two years ago.

Police Capture Medellin Cartel Leader Gomez

PA0703151493 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Medellin—The National Police Elite Corp Search Group dealt another blow to the Medellin Cartel in the past few hours by capturing Julian David Gomez, alias El Terry, presumed leader of that organization, authorities have reported.

El Terry's capture took place at residence 32-B38 in Belen neighborhood on 72d Avenue in western Medellin, Antioquia Department. The National Police Elite Corp Search Group killed Brance Munoz Mosquera, alias

Tyson, chief of the Medellin Cartel military network, at that same location on 28 October.

Departmental officials of the Prosecutor's and Attorney General's Office witnessed the operation that led to the capture of Julian David Gomez, alias El Terry. Authorities have not revealed where the presumed Medellin Cartel leader has been confined.

Chemical Control Constraints Have 'Limited Effect'

PA0603144693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo]

[Text] Laboratory control operations on substances used to process cocaine are not hindering the production of drugs. During the past 20 years, the chemicals used to process drugs have changed, apparently, in accordance with the drug traffickers' needs.

The drug traffickers used diazonium [diazetona] in 1974, and, when it was controlled by authorities, switched to ethyl ether in 1982. Diazonium returned in 1986, and was replaced by methylacetate, MEC, in 1989.

The importation of those chemicals since 1974 shows that government controls have had a limited effect. We have imported much greater quantities of chemicals than are needed by our national industry. The importation of acetate and diazonium fluctuates greatly. The same thing occurs with ethyl ether, ethyl acetate, and methyl acetate. The latter two began to be imported in large quantities only in the past years.

MEC imports are the most revealing. Our national industry requires 1,000 tons a year but we have imported between 6 and 10,000 tons over the past four years.

These facts and demands by businessmen, who are subjected to a great number procedures and much paperwork to import chemicals for legal use, indicate that the control mechanisms have to be revised.

[Begin National Drug Directorate official Luis Carlos Zamora recording] The National Drug Directorate, together with the United Nations, is working on a program to thoroughly evaluate our control mechanisms for essential chemical products in the country. We will also study the country's chemical needs. [end recording]

Thus, the government control constraints are felt by thousands of small businesses but they have a limited effect on the big business of drug traffickers.

*** Uraba Violence Targets Former Guerrillas**

93WR0135Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Feb 93 p 6A

[Text] Eight days after the kidnapping and subsequent killing of union and political leader Jesus Alirio Guevara, the Francisco Caraballo Group has again stepped

up its attacks on members of the Hope, Peace, and Freedom (EPL) movement and on judicial authorities in the Uraba region.

In fact, at 2230 Wednesday night, several armed men dressed in green arrived at the La Popala farm in the municipality of Apartado (Antioquia) with a list of names in hand. They had all the banana farm workers come out and they asked for identification.

But they only seized four: Walter Lozano, Amaury Velasquez, Manuel Alvarez, and Eloy Maldonado. After verifying their identification cards with the list they had with them, they killed them.

Lozano, Velasquez, and Alvarez were activists in the Hope, Peace, and Freedom political movement. Maldonado was a simple worker. The farm where the crime occurred is located on the outskirts of the Policarp Salavarría neighborhood, where Bolivarian militias, armed urban groups organized by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), operate.

And yesterday morning, Thursday, Jaime Benito Parado and Fredy Martinez were kidnapped, according to investigative agents of the Judicial Police's Technical Body, attached to the monitoring unit at Apartado.

The police said that the kidnapping of the two judicial officials occurred in the vicinity of the El Tres sector, on the road from Apartado to Turbo.

The officials were traveling to the Turbo public prosecutor's office in a lilac Chevrolet LUV 2300, license plate EVL 485, when they were intercepted by a group of armed men. The men forced the judicial authorities to get out of the vehicle and then opened fire on them.

Increased Tension

These events have contributed to increased tension in Uraba, a region that has been seeking peace since the EPL was demobilized two years ago. The extermination of the *reinsertados* [former guerrillas] could undermine any pacification efforts in the area.

That is according to several EPL leaders, who are now demanding concrete measures from the national government to resolve the region's crisis.

"The Government says only that it is concerned," claims Franco, "that it condemns these actions and deplors them, but it does nothing else. The actions against Uraba are urgent, the Government should tell us when its measures will become a reality."

The EPL has also made a strong appeal to the Patriotic Union (UP) and to Communist Party (PC) to define their positions with respect to these killings, since these two groups are a political majority in the banana zone. EPL members have accused these parties of being accomplices in the actions of the FARC and the Caraballo group, under the logic, which has not yet been refuted, of justifying "all forms of struggle."

"Both the UP and the PC," said Carlos Franco, EPL member, "have limited themselves to deploring the incident, but not its executors. Furthermore, the Guerrilla Coordination [GC] should define its position with respect to these crimes."

Yesterday, in fact, a communique from the FARC's V front was disclosed, in which the group not only rejects the killing of Guevara, but also expresses that it will not tolerate linking the Coordination with the killing of the union leader.

EL TIEMPO spoke yesterday with the Government secretary for the Apartado mayor, Alvaro Antonio Rodriguez, who added that "the police have increased their special operatives. The 40 agents in the station are circulating continuously, and the vigilance has increased with patrols on the urban perimeter."

He maintained that EPL militants and leaders have not solicited collaboration. Nevertheless, he said that the police have signed 10 escorts from the special vigilance service to leaders of that political party.

Turbo Mayor Edgar Alfonso Genes was also interviewed, and stated that the security of the *reinsertados* in this municipality is the responsibility of the Army's Operation Number One, but that the administration has taken some additional precautions, such as permitting the free transit of motorcycles only until 2200, and keeping public records with the army and police, to better control the illegal shipment of weapons.

Government Actions

Next Tuesday, the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (Conpes) should approve a document containing social and security proposals for Uraba.

After its approval the president will name a presidential counsellor for the zone, who will take office within 15 days and from that time forward would have a period of no more than two years to disburse 110 billion pesos.

In effect, the counselor's work will be that of acting on three fronts, which will be specified in the document: administration of justice, public services, and social development. In addition, the document contains a chapter dedicated to reinsertion programs, and another on aid to the indigenous communities in the zone.

The resources for putting this ambitious plan into operation will come from the national government, the department of Antioquia, and the municipalities in the banana zone, which are Necocli, Arboletes, San Juan de Uraba, San Pedro de Uraba, Apartado, Chigorodo, Turbo, Carepa, Murindo, Vigia del Fuerte, and Mutata.

The Caraballo Group [CG]

The group commanded by Francisco Caraballo, which is blamed for most of the deaths of EPL militants in Uraba, began to conform in 1990, when almost all members of

the former guerrilla group Peoples Liberation Army decided to talk with the Government.

Caraballo, who always believed that negotiation with the president meant the surrender of the guerrilla movement, set up a separate group and was supported by the FARC. This is according to several CG dissidents and some official sources.

But Caraballo, who acts as high commander of this faction and as secretary of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (PC m-l) does not act alone.

With him are two people who during the time of the EPL's clandestinity were considered to be the two ideological axes of the movement: Danilo Trujillo, with his wife Gabriela Londono, and Eduardo Ramirez.

These three persons, together with Caraballo, figure as part of the editorial committee of the newspaper REVOLUTION, the PC m-l house organ, which circulates under license 3079, granted in 1984 by the Government Ministry.

Also conforming is what is called the "national executive body" of Caraballo dissidents. Some observers believe that this group's actions against the EPL are backed by the FARC. Others, however, believe that it has serious conflicts with the CG. What is clear is that with these crimes they seek to show the Government that despite the blows they have received (one of their militants has been captured and another killed), they still have a military capability.

Paraguay

Candidacy Deadline Postponed to 22 Mar

PY0503182793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
4 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpt] The Senate this morning approved, by a majority, a bill postponing until 22 March the deadline for the registration of national and departmental candidates who will participate in the 9 May elections.

The established deadline was 5 March. The bill will now be sent to the Executive Branch for promulgation.

The only senators to oppose it were those who support Luis Maria Argana; they abstained. Carlos Romero Pereira, leader of the Argana-supporters block, demanded a reason for postponing the deadline.

Senator Waldino Ramon Lovera, head of the Legislation, Codification, Justice, and Labor Committee, explained that the bill does not explain why the deadline has been postponed. He said that he supports postponing the deadline until 22 March because all parties and political movements will then be ensured of their right to participate in the upcoming general elections. [passage omitted]

Authentic Radical Liberal Party Platform Summarized

PY0603140693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
28 Feb 93 pp 4, 5

["Summary" of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, platform as described by presidential hopeful Domingo Laino during a working breakfast organized by the Association of Christian Businessmen in Asuncion "this week;" "excerpts" of the platform are included]

[Text] "The Paraguayan Government is stalemated by the evils inherited from 35 years of corruption and inefficiency that characterized Stroessner's regime. He imposed a perverse system to empty it of its contents and use it to cater to the greed of a neo-Stroessnerist Colorado Party, mercantilistic patronage, and pork barrel. To meet the needs of that local 'mafia,' the government had to put aside the responsibilities incident upon it as such and devote itself to activities that the government normally does not engage. The reason the government was prompted to do so was that it could thus make fat shady deals and engage in all sorts of illegal actions.

"We believe that one of the most urgent tasks of the Liberal administration will be to make the government assume its specific responsibilities so that it may again become a representative government, the expression of the will of Paraguayan society as a whole rather than of specific sectors, political parties, or interests. The Liberal administration will also make the government recover its resiliency by streamlining its structure and operation so that it may meet the needs of the Paraguayan people as a whole instead of being engaged in activities that should come under the realm of the private sector or by clinging to a cumbersome and inept bureaucracy, which is incapable of finding a solution to our common problems.

"A country where the rule of law prevails must implement policies tailored to the needs of each specific area: planning policy, economic policy, social policy, environmental policy, integration policy, etc. Allow me to elaborate on some general guidelines:

Planning Policy

"Our planning policy will entail formulating clear, fair, and democratic rules of the game for private and state-owned enterprises as far as regulations and the operation of the entire government apparatus are concerned, aimed at ensuring efficiency and preventing government officials from finding themselves in a situation that might jeopardize the common good.

"Let us end pork-barreling, which benefits a party or an interest group. Let us end mercantilistic patronage and sectarian Armed Forces. It is time we Paraguayans stopped amassing fortunes garnered from a privileged relationship with the ruling political party. It is time we said no to governments that are subservient to special interests. It is time we said no to graft that benefits political factions or for "friends."

"If we end these practices we will eliminate such negative factors as the invalidation of republican institutions, the lack of support for the government, public administration inefficiency, and uncertainty about government policies.

"Moreover, we will strengthen democratic institutions to enable them to make decisions without being tied down by partisan, military, or financial interests. The government will thus be able to devote itself to working for the welfare of the nation and protecting public interests. We will also seek to buttress Congress, the judiciary, electoral courts, political movements and parties, charities and welfare organizations—in sum, any organization that can serve as a catalyst for our fellow-countrymen to legitimately support and participate in a common endeavor.

"What is more, we believe that the seriousness and complexity of the problems confronting us demand the cooperation of all well-meaning Paraguayans, leaving aside partisan or factious feelings.

"Therefore, if the Liberal Party wins the upcoming elections it will propound a government of national unity and consensus democracy. We will thus govern side by side with the other political parties and keep close contact with them at the institutional level to reach a consensus that may strengthen and legitimize the substantial transformations the time demands.

Economic Policy

"The hub of our economic policy will be to promote our agricultural and industrial production—with a view to increasing, diversifying, and mechanizing our production—and to widen the range of our exports, especially those that may have more domestic value added.

"We will discourage purely speculative investments, extensive cultivation, and unproductive latifundia. We will seek to establish a dynamic macroeconomic balance, which will be based on:

"—a fiscal balance that will be achieved by means of improved tax collection efforts, the elimination of unnecessary expenditures, and a fair redistribution of revenues;

"—a monetary and credit policy that wards off inflation, lowers minimum reserve requirements, reduces clearance costs, and promotes investment and production; and

"—a policy that seeks to improve our balance of payment position so that we may strike the right balance between our balance of trade and goods and services account, and the current account balance. This will enable us to meet our debt service requirements.

"We will encourage private initiative and fair play on the market, in which free competition prevails and businessmen's risks can be assessed.

Social Policy

"It is not enough for the government to propound planning and economic policies. It is also necessary to have a social policy, which will ensure the harmonious development of our society. This implies that both the effort to achieve this objective and the benefits derived from such a development must be equally shared among all citizens.

"We are persuaded that there is no other alternative than growing together, as it is unthinkable that only a small group of privileged people should enjoy the benefits derived from progress, while most Paraguayans find themselves ensnared in abject poverty, backwardness, illiteracy, unemployment, and disease.

"Although in economic matters we advocate stepping up private initiative and free trade for the production and exchange of goods and services, we nonetheless share Pope John Paul II's belief that private property necessarily implies social responsibility and that the government must also seek to establish a more just social order that holds out a caring hand to those who live in complete destitution. These are not populist theories, but rather politics imbued with Christian values, or in other words, democracy with social justice.

"Therefore, we propound establishing conditions to eradicate unemployment, outcast groups, and poverty. We will tackle these problems on several fronts.

"First, pursuant to Article No. 87 of the Constitution, we will promote a full employment policy.

"The supply of labor is linked to the overall economic situation. It is impossible for a country having insufficient investments and savings, where production is neither diversified nor mechanized and its yields are poor, and which is prone to be adversely affected by the slightest variations in the price of cotton and soybeans on the international market, to create jobs for a growing, active population.

"Given this state of affairs, we believe that one way to tackle the problem of creating jobs is having a government that will foster, guide, and boost the sustainable growth of our economy by means of production incentives and reinvested earnings, because the inner dynamic of the economic growth thus achieved will generate new openings.

"When there is room for private initiative to flourish in a country where stability and the rule of law reign, when savings and investments are protected, there are more job opportunities for everybody, especially in the industrial sector.

Paraguay's Reinstatement in the International Arena

"There have been major changes in the world, as can be seen in the number of new items that have cropped up on the international agenda: Markets opening up worldwide, underdeveloped countries becoming increasingly

'alienated' from the dynamic trends in the world economy, the strengthening of economic relations between industrial countries, spawning of economies of scale by means of integration endeavors (such as the EC), novel environmental policies, new drug enforcement policies, etc.

"Unfortunately, many of these changes are not beneficial for Paraguay.

"We advocate an economic growth based on a market economy and free competition. As things stand in terms of trade worldwide, however, this is extremely difficult because economic and political superpowers suggest that underdeveloped countries implement free trade, do away with subsidies, and open their economies, but they go by policies that are completely opposite to what they preach. They protect their production and their trade with tax rebates or subsidies. They prevent our products from entering their country or competing with theirs by means of bans, import levies, quotas, tariffs, and any amount of tariff barriers. 'Pay lip service to something,' or 'God helps those who help themselves' are sayings that suit this case perfectly.

"This situation holds not only in the case of world centers of economic and political power but also regarding our neighboring countries. In open violation of the Treaty of Itaipu, Brazil neither buys the electricity it is required to nor does it pay for the electricity it has already received. In addition, it intends to keep control of the governing body of the binational agency till doomsday. In flagrant violation of the Treaty of Asuncion, Argentina imposes tariff barriers that tax our exports and hinder trade with our country.

"The difficult situation that I have just described makes it necessary for us to restate our country's foreign policy. Allow me to discuss two issues.

"On the one hand, we propose reaching a consensus among Paraguayans to be able to face those problems from a common standpoint and to make sure that international agreements, especially those we have with Argentina and Brazil, are honored and respected in good faith.

"On the other hand, we propose that our country abstain from signing international agreements that do not establish clear mechanisms that give us reasonable certainty that the provisions of the treaty will be respected and fairly applied. There is no sense in signing treaties that are not abided by in those aspects that might benefit our country.

"Once we patch up our differences with Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries, we will use the institutional framework established by the Treaty of Asuncion so that it may conform to the established end, namely, to enlarge our market, step up production and productivity, increase our bargaining power at the international level, and to defend ourselves from the predatory practices of superpowers." Thus concludes the PLRA proposal.

["Excerpts" of major points of the PLRA platform]

State Reform

- Privatizations. The State will only provide goods and services in those areas of social welfare that do not usually fall under the domain of private companies.
- Make public administration simple, nimble, law-abiding, and above-board. New relationship between citizens and public administration. Establishment of the post of ombudsman.
- Decentralization and reorganization of public administration. Decentralization of the decisionmaking process. New responsibilities for municipal and departmental governments.
- Training and professionalizing civil servants. Proposal to update Act 200. Establishment of civil service careers.
- Application of updated managerial methods. Increase efficiency, reduce red tape, save space, lower costs, improve services.
- Do away with pork-barreling and mercantilistic patronage.
- Establish nonpartisan Armed Forces.
- Strengthening of democratic institutions such as Congress, Electoral Court, Ombudsman, the judiciary, political parties and movements, and other avenues for citizen participation.

Macroeconomic Policy

- The State will not only have to establish the appropriate legal framework for a market economy but will also have to conceive and implement the appropriate social and ecological framework for such an economy.
- A balanced macroeconomic policy, a social policy that seeks to improve social justice, and an ecological policy to safeguard and improve environmental conditions.
- Separation of the agencies that manage the fiscal and monetary policies so that they are only concerned about the welfare of the nation.
- Fiscal balance. Government spending will be strictly dependent on public revenue. An increase in revenues will be achieved through an efficient tax collection system.
- Government spending will be fundamentally allocated for pump-priming the economy, improving social justice and the ecological balance.
- Efforts will be made to curb inflation and promote savings and credit through a sound and competitive financial system, a decrease in the minimum reserves requirement and in clearance costs.

- Trade balance and goods and services accounts balanced by current account balance by means of attracting foreign investments and loans.

Foreign Policy

Given the fact that the transition to democracy will be over, the new situation will require a consolidation of the democratic system. Paraguay's foreign policy will seek to:

- Find its niche at the international level through the promotion of a creative foreign policy that stresses the significance of principles.
- Define and implement an international policy that strengthens integration endeavors, helps finance the development of the country, and palliates the negative effects of an asymmetric interdependence.
- An active international presence and free diplomatic relations that emphasize democratic principles.
- Maintain a high profile in mechanisms of subregional and regional cooperation and integration in Latin America.
- Seek new relations with the United States, Europe, and the industrial world as a whole. Reassert our right to self-government but without ignoring the most fundamental principles governing realism, so as to avoid erroneous choices that may lead to confrontation.
- Although Paraguay is a land-locked country, it must actively further an international policy on the sea, the Antarctic, and the world environment.

Agriculture Policy

- Institutional Ordering. Prevent the duplication of ideas. Unite under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock all entities affected by this endeavor and give them well-defined functions.
- Order the agrarian reform of ill-obtained lands and properties; conditioning physical-institutional infrastructures and peasant settlements; fight unproductive large land ownerships; and include the problem within the overall employment policy.
- Promote the creation of peasant working communities such as community groups, rural committees, neighborhood centers, agriculture youth clubs, cooperatives and associations.
- Credit support. Elimination of the "parasitic intermediation" so that credit can get to producers as directly as possible. Reorganization of the Agricultural Development Funds. Encouragement to the creation of private credit entities in rural areas.
- Technical assistance. Reorganization and strengthening of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Service. Strengthening of the General Cooperativism Directorate. Promotion of private technical consultant services in agricultural matters.

- Work for fluidity in trading. Create mechanism of information and commercial orientation.

- Seek territorial organization for adequate production. Agricultural diversification.

Industrial Policy

- Recognition of the industrial sector as the most dynamic and agile area. Give special encouragement to local raw material processing industries and industries that consume electric energy. Promote the export of industrialized products under strict quality controls.
- Modernize the transport structure and simplify customs proceedings.
- Acquisitions by the public sector will give priority, in equal conditions, to nationally produced industrial products, insuring an effective participation of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Encourage the industrialization of raw materials at the production centers for the creation of jobs and to act as a deterrent to migration to urban centers.
- Attempt to prevent monopolies and speculative or destabilizing activities.
- Credit will be directed to take care, preferably, of top industrial producers who put their efforts and invest their resources in efficient and competitive enterprises, in the incorporation of new technologies and the production of jobs. Labor Policy
- Promote savings, investment and economic growth as the only way to create real jobs.
- Equitable distribution of efforts for growth and the benefits of such growth.
- Tax system that distributes incomes. Change in the structure of public spending. Promotion of private economic activity, particularly industrial. Legal framework with clear rules for all.
- Installation of an income policy to stop the deterioration of real earnings and oriented to increasing their value through redistribution mechanism. production redistribution, improved productivity, and the opening of new markets.
- State incentives for companies that encourage better incomes and additional benefits for their workers.
- Improvement in health, education, recreation services, and infrastructure in general.
- Recognition of the right of representation and defense of workers' rights through their unions.
- The state will assure the freedom of association in unions, the internal democracy of unions, and their activities outside political activities.

Energy Policy

- Promotion of the profitable use of hydroelectricity, particularly in job intensive areas.
- Expand the consumption of hydroelectricity within the framework of an interconnected system in Mercosur's area of influence.
- Change the energy consumption structure, which today greatly depends on imported hydrocarbons. Increase consumption of renewable and clean energy.
- Tariff policy favoring social and productive use and not luxurious use.
- Maintenance of the alcohol fuel plan as a substitute for hydrocarbons.
- Encouragement for prospecting, exploration, and exploitation of oil and natural gas to be negotiated with private companies.
- As long as it is convenient for the country, the state will encourage the use of natural gas for industrial and domestic use within the framework of regional integration.
- Create an energy ministry.
- Renegotiation of the Itaipu Treaty, demand the fulfillment of its articles, and investigate alleged fraud.
- The state will encourage the termination of Yacireta and encourage the prompt beginning of the Corpus project.

Survey Shows Support for Caballero Vargas Growing

PY0603022893 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
5 Mar 93 pp 10, 11

[Survey conducted by the Institute for Communications and Art, ICA, Instituto de Comunicaciones y Arte]

[Text] The partisan spirit of electors is clearly shown when surveyors propose the possibility of an alliance between the two main opposition presidential candidates.

A united opposition undoubtedly has great chances of winning the upcoming 9 May election. A great number of Colorado Party followers who prefer Caballero Vargas as their candidate express doubts, however, when asked if their preference would change if Domingo Laino is Caballero Vargas's running mate due to the old and traditional taboo that a Colorado Party follower can never vote for a Liberal.

Considering all this, the percentage of people who said they would vote for Caballero Vargas-Laino is considerable. In Asuncion—with 15.96 percent of the total registered electors—46 percent of those questioned said they would vote for this coalition.

A total of 45.4 percent of those questioned said they did not support a ticket made up of Caballero Vargas as president and Laino as vice president.

In the Central Department the support for Caballero-Laino increases considerably: A total of 62 percent of those questioned said they would vote for them, while 28.1 percent opposed the idea.

In Coronel Oviedo, Encarnacion, and Ciudad del Este, 45.7 percent of those questioned favor the unified ticket while 41.3 are against it. In these three areas the number of undecided voters is very low, the largest percentages appearing in the last three cities: 13 percent. [sentence as published]

It is worth noting that the survey also was conducted in the districts' main cities, where electors show very similar preferences to those in the capital.

Almost all the changes in votes in the May elections affect the Colorado Party (which loses votes) and the National Encounter (which wins votes).

In our country, people undoubtedly continue to vote for their party colors. Colorado followers discontented with the official candidate will not vote for the Liberal candidate; they prefer to give their votes to an independent.

According to the results of the survey conducted by the ICA, the decrease in votes would be larger if [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy is the official candidate.

In this case, a total of 39.9 percent of those who voted for [Luis Maria] Argana—which constitutes 29.81 percent of those consulted—would vote for Caballero Vargas.

Only 7.7 percent of those who voted for Argana said they would vote for Wasmosy if he is the official Colorado Party candidate. A total of 43.1 percent of Arganaists said they are undecided.

If Argana had won, the number of Wasmosyists (who has the support of 7.7 percent of the total) who would not have voted for him would also have benefited Caballero Vargas. However, more Wasmosyists would have supported Argana (24.7 percent).

The ICA survey has a good margin of credibility because the institute has been proven right in similar surveys in the past.

It is noteworthy to recall, however, that the survey only covered Asuncion, the Central Department, Ciudad del Este, Coronel Oviedo, and Encarnacion.

This means that vast areas of the country's interior have not been surveyed and they could change the final result.

Candidates React to Colorado Party Designate PY0603001693

[Editorial Report] Paraguayan newspapers on 5 March carry reactions to the designation of Juan Carlos Wasmosy as the Colorado Party presidential candidate for the elections scheduled for 9 May.

Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish carries on page 8 a 300-word unattributed report quoting National Encounter—EN—presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas as saying: "Democracy can be built in our country even without the Colorado Party. I would prefer them to run because they are so sure that they will win, and that way they cannot later claim that we won by a walk-over."

The same newspaper carries on page 7 a 300-word unattributed report quoting Authentic Radical Liberal Party presidential candidate Domingo Laino saying: "Liberals welcome the designation of a candidate for the century-old Colorado Party, because this will allow everyone to participate in the elections in May; it is, however, lamentable that the procedure for designating the candidate has been confusing and marked by incidents and that the designation has been traumatic for a major sector of that party."

Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish carries on p 8 a 200-word unattributed report quoting Ricardo Canese, presidential candidate for the Democratic and Social Coalition, saying: "From my viewpoint, Wasmosy's candidacy is a fraud, because—irrespective of what Argana says—Wasmosy lost the Colorado Party elections." Canese adds: "With the proclamation of a loser as the winning candidate in such a clumsy manner, are there any guarantees for an eventual opposition victory on 9 May? Something really serious happened today; All the candidates should try to guarantee that the electoral process will be clean."

Editorial Views Designation, Party

PY0503223393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
5 Mar 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Distress, Threats Within Colorado Party Must Be Overcome"]

[Text] For better or worse, the Colorado Party's independent electoral board yesterday announced that Juan Carlos Wasmosy has won the primaries and, therefore, is the Colorado Party's presidential candidate for the general elections scheduled for 9 May. Whatever the final verdict of the ballot boxes on 9 May, the Colorado Party, following its electoral board's declaration, is solely responsible for the result, either as the ruling party or as an opposition party. Paraguayan democracy must not be weakened or distressed over this situation.

Nothing has been solved through the announcement within the Colorado Party's internal circle. Quite the contrary, contradictions, ill-feelings, and divisions have

probably been worsened—maybe beyond any possible internal reconciliation. We cannot see any probable paths for negotiations and agreements between the struggling factions. It is even speculated that the losing movement—Arganaism—may even provide electoral support to one of the opposition political parties or movements. Anything is possible. The gulf between the internal factions of the Colorado Party—Arganaism and Wasmosyism—has become insuperable.

With the establishment of the Colorado Party internal tribunal, however, Paraguayan democracy will continue on its course—irrespective of the legality or illegality of the Colorado Party internal process. No longer is there the need to postpone the presidential elections or resort to subterfuge of doubtful constitutional legality, like the lemas electoral system. For better or worse, the Colorado Party has chosen its candidate and must now face the verdict of history in clear and clean elections. Obscure and tricky handling of votes, which characterized these Colorado Party internal elections, should not occur in the upcoming national elections.

Whatever the internal movements decide to do now is the exclusive responsibility of these movements and they should in no way affect the march of the process of transition to democracy.

Paraguayan citizens demand that the Colorado Party rejoin the path of tranquillity, legality, and order. The anguish, threats, and violent demonstrations must end.

Their differences and rancors must be controlled until after the vote. Any blame must fall on the Colorados and nobody else. The population should no longer be made to suffer aggressions and threats of force or possible coups: The Colorado Party has finally chosen its presidential candidate. It must now compete cleanly with the other forces in the field, under equal conditions and with equal opportunities.

The Colorado Party, or what remains of it, must demonstrate its democratic vocation and its unbending commitment to the happiness and well-being of the people by dropping its obstructive practice of legislating for its exclusive benefit and convenience, as would have happened if they had insisted on promulgating the lemas electoral system or interpreted to their advantage established electoral norms. The Colorado Party has no alternative but to return now to legality and clarity.

All Paraguayan democrats, particularly those who are Colorado Party members, now must make a supreme effort to see that the May electoral process ends in success and that democracy is consolidated in the country.

Peru

Fujimori Announces Support Group for Deficit

PA0503161093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has announced the creation of the support group for Peru. It will consist of the United States, which will contribute \$105 million; Japan, which will contribute \$100 million; and several EC countries, which will contribute the remainder of the \$410 million in support. This sum will be used to pay the balance of the 1993 payment deficit, which is required before a bridge loan can be acquired to pay delinquent debt payments to the World Bank and the IMF. On 3 March, the government approved a \$950 million loan.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The Peruvian Government has issued a decree approving a \$450 million loan from Japan and a \$500 million loan from the United States. These loans will be used to pay our delinquent debt payments. [end recording]

With the creation of the support group, the next step will be the approval of Peru's economic plan by the IMF board of directors. This meeting will take place on 17 March. On 19 March, in an indirect refinancing operation, delinquent debt payments owed to multilateral financial organizations and estimated to be \$1.8 billion, will be made. Once these goals are reached, Economy Minister Jorge Camet will meet with Paris Club members, to which Peru owes \$5.5 billion since 1983 [as heard].

[Begin Fujimori recording] Meeting one's obligations means paying one's outstanding debts to the international financial organizations. Peru is going through very hard times. We have a very old debt. Do you know how much of the debt we must reschedule to receive this international cooperation? Since 1983, there has been a total of \$5.5 billion owed to the Paris Club [as heard]. We are carrying a very heavy load that began to accumulate during the Belaunde administration and then carried over to the Alan Garcia administration. Peru wants to regulate that debt by renegotiating it over a long term with a several-year grace period. [end recording]

Lima TV Announces Appointment of U.S. Official

PA0703174293 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satellite Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] We have good news for the country. Alexander Watson was appointed new Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs by the Bill Clinton administration. The appointment opens promising prospects for an accelerated improvement of our relations, which reached a low point following the 5 April 1992 events, with the United States.

Watson was the U.S. ambassador in Lima during Alan Garcia's regime, but that presents no difficulty to men in

the current regime, such as presidential adviser Guillermo Runciman, a personal friend of Watson, in establishing important links between Government Palace and the U.S. State Department with ability and dexterity.

Defense Minister Remarks on U.S. 'Spy' Hamilton

PA0503150993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The case of the U.S. spy is taking on unexpected dimensions as the investigation continues in Congress. Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva told the Congressional Defense Commission led by Gilberto Siura that U.S. citizen Frederick Hamilton gave secret information to the Ecuadoran Government on as many as two occasions. He said for some unknown reason—which could lead one to believe they are trying to hide something—the United States took almost two months to advise the Peruvian Foreign Ministry that the said official had been removed. The most surprising revelation was that according to unconfirmed reports, Hamilton is thought to be free after paying \$10,000 bail.

[Begin Malca recording] The individual made his written statements in the United States, but as we have been told, they have been placed in a sealed envelope. We have also been told, although it has not been confirmed, that he is free after paying \$10,000 bail. [end recording]

Defense Minister Malca Villanueva gave this explanation after a closed-door meeting that lasted one hour. He also discussed issues related to the Peruvian Navy embezzlement case. The most recent information on that case involves the Supreme Council of Military Justice filing criminal charges against retired Admirals Juan Soria Diaz, Gonzalo Gambirasio, and Juan Monte de Caros. Retired Adm. de Caros was head of the Inspection and Auditing Commission of the Naval Attache's Office in Washington.

Charges were also filed against former Naval Attache Enrique Bustamante Salazar and Navy Auditing Commission members Jose Del Pozos and Pedro Vinques.

Other navy officers indicted are Enrique Villagarcia, Julio de los Rios Rosas, Enrique Brian Valencia, Guillermo Simpson Villagarcia, and Guillermo Tirado Villa, who is currently accused of fraud, disobedience, and forgery.

[Begin recording] [Defense Commission President Gilberto Siura] [word indistinct] is working, and the defense minister is also working on this issue. Defense Minister Malca Villanueva has agreed to provide us with the necessary information at the appropriate time as soon as he receives a reply from the United States.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the Peruvian Government issued a protest note?

[Suira] Yes. The government has expressed its intention to send a protest note because it is not possible for us to find out about this type of situation through the media.

[Reporter] But this diplomatic protest note has not been sent. Has a specific date been set?

[Suira, interrupting] The note has not been sent; they are still working on it. It is the Foreign Ministry's responsibility to prepare the note. [end recording]

Extradition Authorized for 2 Accused of Terrorism

PA0703021093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] On 6 March, the government authorized the extradition of Peruvian citizens Maria Lucero Cumpa Miranda and Maria Luisa Vensa Flucker who have been accused of terrorism and are in Germany and Chile, respectively.

Cumpa, who has reportedly changed her identity, belongs to the so-called Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. She left Peru secretly after escaping from Miguel Castro-Castro Jail in July 1990.

Vensa must face charges for terrorism at the 43th Penal Court in Lima.

The government also authorized the extradition of Shining Path terrorists Maximiliano Duran Araujo and Jorge Mujica Contreras, who are in France.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Offers To Mediate in GATT Talks

PY0603005693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1549 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 5 Mar (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu today offered to mediate between the United States and the EC to find an understanding for ending the stalemate in the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

During a meeting with foreign correspondents in Montevideo, Abreu said that he, in his capacity as president of the Uruguay round of talks, believed that before engaging in technical debates, it is necessary to reach a broad political agreement because of the aggravation of the situation after the most difficult problems were believed to have been solved in November 1992.

"A serious crisis has affected GATT because of certain countries' resistance to approving the final document of the Uruguay round of talks," Abreu said.

The Uruguayan minister said the round will not end this year and that hard work will be needed to design a system that might finally satisfy all sides in 1994.

Abreu said GATT is now in an "Intermediate Care Unit" and much work will be needed to prevent it from going to an "Intensive Care Unit," where it will either revive or die.

France's strong resistance to the farm agreements and the U.S.' retaliation to hinder EC steel exports and certain services have complicated the Uruguay round of talks.

The majority of developing countries—whose exports have been hindered by First World protectionism and economic wars—believes the situation may cause true chaos in world trade.

Abreu said the solution "should be essentially political" because agreements are always possible, from a technical viewpoint, if governments are willing to reach them.

The Uruguayan minister stressed the sociopolitical problems that might be caused by restrictions on Latin American countries' trade in case the Uruguay round of talks fails, considering that all Latin American countries are essentially farm producers.

Abreu, who two months ago replaced Hector Gros Espiell—the current Uruguayan ambassador to France—during one hour explained his country's foreign policy, which will give preference to bilateral relations with Argentina and Brazil to implement the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

Uruguay wants to become the "River Plate Basin Gateway" and to operate as the terminal port on the Parana and Paraguay River system, which gives access to the sea to landlocked Bolivia and Paraguay and to the farm region of western Brazil.

Abreu said his country "advocates integration but not only as a market and a fortress defended by tariffs but built upon competitiveness and quality."

The minister adopted a realistic position on implementing Mercosur and other Latin American integration schemes. He said, however, that before building a huge market, a free trade system should be implemented, like the one sought by the agreement signed by Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Venezuela

Student Riots Said To Erupt in Caracas

PA0803153293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, Mar 8 (AFP)—AFP journalists confirmed that violent student riots erupted in central and western Caracas on 8 March when students from the Jose Marti Technical Industrial School, the Pedagogic Institute, and the Luis Espelosin Liceum protested against the government of President Carlos Andres Perez. After several days of relative peace, the students confronted police troops armed with sabers and tear gas.

Perez on Chamber's Decision To Question Him

PA0603155893 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez on 5 March announced he will ask the Supreme Court of Justice to review the decision by the Chamber of Deputies Comptroller General's Committee to question him.

President Perez said at no time has he visualized the congressional demand for him to answer a questionnaire as a confrontation between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

[Begin Perez recording] I have said, and I have sent a note to the presidents of both Chambers to this effect, that it is necessary to zealously maintain the authority of the head of state, which is the highest position in the Republic. I have also said that neither the Constitution nor the Congressional regulations contemplate the possibility of questioning the head of state. The head of state is assisted by his ministers, who first of all must handle public funds and all aspects of public administration on his behalf. This includes the minister of the Presidency; therefore, the ministers should be the ones to answer any questions.

The head of the state, or Executive Branch, however, cannot interpret the law. The same applies to Congress; therefore, I invited both Chambers to join me in consulting on this conflict of powers [conflicto de competencias] with the Supreme Court of Justice. The presidents of both chambers replied in the sense that the initiative should come from me. At this time, Interior Affairs Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona should be delivering to the Supreme Court of Justice a document in which I ask the Supreme Court to settle this conflict of powers between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

This is normal in a democracy; we must exercise the state of law. It is not an arrogant position assumed by the president of the Republic but the means to resolve conflicts of powers under a state of law; therefore, I am worried by the attitude assumed by some members of Congress and I urge them to try to understand the position of the head of state. My government's period is almost over. I am not maintaining this position for my government, which is in its final phase. I am thinking of the future, because it is my duty to think in terms of what is best for Venezuela and not for a circumstantial president, as all presidents are. [end recording]

At a news conference, Interior Affairs Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona confirmed the initiative undertaken by the president of the Republic through a document in which he asks the Supreme Court of Justice to settle the controversy between the president of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies Comptroller General's Committee.

In that sense, the document asked the court to declare there is no obligation to answer the questionnaire that the subcommission will send President Perez.

In the document to the Supreme Court of Justice, the president of the Republic asked the court to invalidate the request by the special subcommission, which is unconstitutional and illegal because it violates Articles 159 and 151 of the Constitution and Article 156 of the Criminal Arraignment Code [Codigo de Enjuiciamiento Criminal] and Article 90 of the Comptroller General's Organic Law.

[Begin recording] [Carmona] In this manner, as he had announced to congressional authorities and the public, the head of state appeals to the mechanism established by the state of law to seek a reply and a decision to end, once and for all, this controversy and to define clearly the roles of each government branch.

[Pachano] What does the government expect?

[Carmona] The government certainly expects the Supreme Court of Justice to issue its ruling in light of the applicable constitutional regulations. This response by the Supreme Court of Justice will be absolutely respected by the Executive Branch and in this particular case, the head of state. [end recording]

David Morales Bello, coordinator of the Democratic Action [AD] legislative wing at the Senate, explained that President Perez supports the thesis that he is not subject to verbal or written summons. He added that the president supports this thesis because the Constitution establishes the norms on how, at any given time, responsibilities can be attributed to the president of the Republic.

Senator Morales Bello made these statements at the Miraflores Palace, where he was invited to learn of the action filed by the president to the Supreme Court. The president demanded the nullification of the resolution issued by the Chamber of Deputies Comptroller General's Committee summoning him. In this regard, Senator Morales Bello said that in the next few days, he will inform the AD legislative wing of this decision by President Perez.

[Begin Morales recording] The Chamber of Deputies Comptroller General's Committee maintains its intention to summon the president. The president in turn considered that this dispute must be settled before the country's higher court, which will have to issue a pronouncement. This will serve as authentic interpretation of a constitutional and governing rule, which is being interpreted differently by the Chamber Comptroller General's Committee and the head of state.

We learned the contents of the action, which the president showed to us, and we will inform the AD legislative wing. This will permit us all to be informed on this important case. [end recording]

Humberto Celli, AD National Executive Committee president, reiterated that only President Carlos Andres Perez has the right to appeal a summons by Congress. These statements were made by Humberto Celli during a news conference held at the AD National Executive Committee offices, where he referred to various topics of national interest.

Regarding this summons, the president of the white party [AD color] said that great confusion has been generated in the country, which does not benefit the situation.

[Begin Celli recording] In this regard, the president has been very clear. He said he will not honor the summons. But I believe that given the confusion created, which has nothing to do with AD.... [pauses] I want to make it very clear that the party has no responsibility in this regard. We believe that for the country's sake, it is convenient that this matter be clarified once and for all. [end recording]

CTV Acting President Says Wage Increase Necessary

PA0503160893 Caracas *Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish* 2350 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] feels the minimum wage should be set between 15,000 and 20,000 bolivares. The CTV will submit the proposal to President Carlos Andres Perez in a document the union will deliver to him on Thursday, 11 March.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Zaida Pereira] Acting CTV President [title as heard] Gaston Vera said that a minimum wage increase is necessary, as an analysis of the deterioration of wages revealed and since the wages have experienced a devaluation of 175 percent. The price of most staple products has gone up from 40 to 170 percent. In addition, the price of medicines has gone up 800 percent. He also said the CTV will ask for a freeze in the prices of 13 products regarded as indispensable, namely, milk, eggs, beef, poultry, pork, flour, pasta, bread, rice, beans, sugar, sardines, and baby food and baby formula.

The union considered asking that services such as energy, water, cooking gas, and transportation be included in this package. Medicines would also fall under this category. In addition, the CTV will propose that collective agreements be discussed every year because of the deterioration of consumer purchasing power.

[Vera] We have said that speculation, the excessive earnings of businessmen, and the lack of controls to prevent the disproportionate rise in the workers' cost of living are to blame for these problems.

[Pereira] In addition, the CTV reaffirmed its support for the increase in the quota ceilings of the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security [IVSS], which it said would only affect 19 percent of the workers. [end recording]

Central Information Office [OCI] Director Angel Zambrano said upon leaving the Council of Ministers meeting, which was held on 4 March at the Miraflores Place, that the government is willing to analyze the CTV proposal. He added that the government has always been favorably disposed in this respect and said the proposal harms the country's fiscal stability, which he feels is very delicate. The Council of Ministers also devoted its attention to the IVSS situation. Zambrano reported a bill was approved to amend Article 98 of the Social Security Law, raising the quota ceilings on five urban minimum wages. The new measure will enter into effect on 1 April.

The Council of Ministers earmarked 1.3 billion bolivares for *Venezolana de Television*. Zambrano said this measure serves to contradict reports that the Executive Branch would abandon the state channel to privatize it. He explained the policy of the current government is to strengthen the mass media.

[Begin Zambrano recording] The president and the current government feel that the state channel must be strengthened, as it is an instrument necessary for the country to receive direct information from the democratic governments. The approval of 1.3 billion bolivares in the budget for fiscal year 1993 shows we are highly committed to strengthening Channel 8. We want it to reach a technical level that brings it on a par with all the other private television stations; that way, it can provide the people a suitable, entertaining, and informative production that can serve to reinforce the democratic system. [end recording]

* Conindustria President on Urgent Fiscal Issues

93SM0163A Caracas *EL NACIONAL in Spanish* 2 Feb 93 p D7

[Article by Alicia Aguilar]

[Text] The president of Conindustria [Venezuelan Council of Industry], Rafael Alfonzo, cautioned that, regardless of who proves to be the winner, the next president of the Republic will have to solve the country's fiscal problems for once and for all. He claimed that, otherwise, Venezuela will be submerged in an unpredictable crisis, the extent of which is already becoming evident.

The industrial leader thinks that the important point is not to focus the debate on the question of whether or not the World Bank is going to disburse the \$300 million loan. "What is really vital is to warn of the imminent crisis looming over the country as a result of the political debate into which approval of the tax laws has lapsed."

He asserted that, in the context of the predictable difficulties, a loan of \$300 million or more is insignificant so long as there is still a deficit amounting to 7 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product], and inflation close to 35 percent.

Alfonzo reiterated: "If the tax laws are not passed, the problems will be of greater magnitude. For this reason, the political parties must acquire a capacity for understanding, so as to eliminate this issue from the political debate."

No to IVSS

The Conindustria president voiced a categorical rejection for Cordiplan's [Office of Coordination and Planning] proposal to raise social security contributions to a limit of 35,000 bolivares.

He noted that his argument was based precisely on the disillusionment felt by the insured workers over the provision of medical treatment and social security services that this institution is supposedly required to furnish. He said that it was impossible to improve them, despite the effort presumed to be under way on the part of the restructured board.

He maintained that any attempt to raise the contribution "must be accompanied by a program stating what will be done with those funds, and indicating a plan for changes resulting in properly run hospitals. Also, details must be given on the controls over the system for competitive bidding on equipment."

He declared that the government cannot continue burdening the worker with further deductions if compensation is not offered in the form of services. He said that an increase in the contribution limit would have a direct effect on wages because, although it is true that the company also will raise its contribution, management will deduct that percentage from any wage hike to which the employee can aspire.

Alfonzo indicated that the increase in the IVSS [Venezuelan Institute of Social Security] contribution is seen as a "fire extinguishing" measure to solve the cash flow problems in that institute. It is also viewed as a means of stopping the gaps left by bad administrations in the past.

He remarked that no one could object if, together with the proposal to raise the contribution limit, a specific plan were submitted to restore the services "dispensed" by the IVSS. "As soon as higher payments are announced, we should be given a guarantee of improvements to be made. We cannot be asked to throw our money away, with social security still left bankrupt six months from now."

* Hausmann Discusses Need for Tax Reform

93SM0163B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
3 Feb 93 p D7

[Article by Yolanda Ojeda Reyes]

[Text] The possibility that, in 1994 and 1995, Venezuela may again refinance the debt that has not been restructured, that is, the one not included in the 1990 Financial Plan, will depend on the expansion in nonpetroleum

revenues. This is because "any medium-term forecast of the country's fiscal accounts does not appear feasible without a tax reform."

As everyone knows, the Finance Ministry completed a program to defer the nonrestructured debt principal, which was to fall due in 1992 and 1993, until 1994 and 1995. It has been indicated that, if the next government lacks a modern tax structure, it will have to renegotiate again with its creditors, because the country would not have the capacity to cope with these commitments in the budget.

The Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning] minister, Ricardo Hausmann, when queried on this subject, remarked: "These things always have many minuends and subtrahends." If Venezuela's medium-term economic situation in the tax area is analyzed, "it is found that, although the nonpetroleum economy is growing, the petroleum sector's tax capacity does not appear to be growing. Rather, it seems to be really stagnant. We have the problem of a growing economy without the tax mechanisms that would make it possible for a part of the additional income generated by the growth, a fraction of it, to enter the National Treasury."

According to Hausmann, "Any medium-term prediction of the country's fiscal accounts appears unfeasible without a reform of nonpetroleum taxation. And that is not a problem for this government, but rather one for the next, and the one after it; because we have an economy that is growing, yet not contributing to collective costs in the extent to which it is growing. Hence, we need taxes that are more closely linked to the income generating capacity."

The costs that "we incur this year with a deficit will have to be paid by the next government. What we are saying is that we should pay them today, that they should be paid by today's Venezuelans. It would be irresponsible of the government to say: 'Let us incur the costs and make the next government pay them.'" Hausmann made this comment when a reporter pointed out that the government was exerting psychological pressure for approval of the taxes.

As for the amount produced by taxes, Hausmann gave a reminder that, "with a rule of three, it can easily be determined what the revenue might be, based on the date when the taxes take effect."

* PDVSA Signs Credit Agreement With Japan

93SM0163C Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
3 Feb 93 p D18

[Article by Alicia Aguilar]

[Text] The Japanese ambassador announced that his country would import over \$20 million worth of Venezuelan oil this year.

By mid-March it is anticipated that an agreement will be signed between Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. [PDVSA] and the Export Credit Agency, Eximbank [Export-Import Bank] of Japan, whereby credit totaling \$40 million will be arranged. The oil industry will allocate that sum for the purchase of equipment and materials required for the different projects stipulated in its expansion plan. This announcement was made at Miraflores by Japan's ambassador to our country, Jutaro Sakamoto.

With this arrangement, the operations announced this week number two. Last Tuesday, the PDVSA president, Gustavo Roosen, traveled to New York to meet with the top-ranking management of Eximbank of the United States, to which he will submit the PDVSA financing plan for this year. He claimed that the oil corporation would obtain financing from that institution totaling approximately \$800 million in assets, to be purchased on the U.S. market this year.

At Miraflores, the Japanese ambassador mentioned another operation, noting that Eximbank in his country is currently exploring the possibility of granting a loan to the national oil industry amounting to 5 billion yen, the equivalent of \$40 million.

Ambassador Sakamoto also remarked that, this year, Japan will increase its imports of Venezuelan oil to over \$20 million.

The Japanese diplomat's statements were made when he detailed the reasons for his visit to President Carlos Andres Perez. He said that he had informed the head of state regarding the visit of a mission from the Japanese private sector, consisting of 40 businessmen from the leading companies. They will meet with their Venezuelan counterparts in order to learn about the country's economic situation firsthand, and also to analyze the type of investments that would prove most attractive. "I asked the president to receive them as well," he commented.

Health Project

Another announcement involving new investments, this time earmarked for the health sector, was made at Miraflores by Health Minister Rafael Orihuela. He reported that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will contribute \$650 million for the partial financing of the "Health Project."

This project calls for the furnishing of medical equipment for emergencies in the MSAS' [Ministry of Health and Social Welfare] hospitals and 1,500 outpatient facilities throughout the country in which the Mother-and-Child Treatment Program (PAMI) operates.

"Project Health," to be initiated by the last quarter of this year (October-December), will have additional backing in the amount of \$288 million through the Endemic Control Program, underwritten with the United States. That sum will be supplemented by funds

derived from the process of privatizing public enterprises and entities, and from the Health Ministry's ordinary budget.

Guyana

Jagan, IDB President Sign Loan Agreement

FL0703224593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020
GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 7, CANA—The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is tentatively considering U.S.240 million dollars in loans for Guyana between this year and 1996.

The announcement was made here late last week during a visit by IDB President Enrique Iglesias who left on Saturday for Barbados.

It was also announced that Guyana stands to receive between U.S.30 million and 50 million dollars in grants under the IDB's new Multilateral Investment Fund, being used to finance activities to improve the private sector investment climate and increase financing available to small business.

Iglesias, pointing to Guyana's heavy debt burden, said this was a reason why the IDB was placing emphasis on providing concessional financing to Guyana.

"We don't want to lend money to Guyana on ordinary capital because it is the same that has eight percent interests and this does not facilitate the servicing of the debt," he told reporters.

Iglesias, however, was optimistic that Guyana's debt problem will ease over the long term as the economy continues on the current growth path.

During the visit, Iglesias and President Cheddi Jagan signed a U.S.23.4 million loan agreement for a project to rehabilitate over 100 km of Guyana's main highways and roads.

Guyana owes the IDB some U.S.330 million dollars.

Ex-Prime Minister Files Writ Against Expulsion

FL0503225593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150
GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 5, CANA—Lawyers for former Guyana Prime Minister Hamilton Green, who was expelled from the opposition People's National Congress [PNC] a week ago, on Friday filed a writ in the High Court suing former President Desmond Hoyte and top officers of the party for breach of contract and for violating his constitutional rights.

Hoyte, PNC General Secretary Robert Corbin and the three members who sat on a special disciplinary committee which recommended Green's expulsion are the defendants named in the writ.

Green is seeking an injunction restraining the five, the PNC, officers, servants and agents of the party from excluding him from exercising any of the rights and privileges enjoyed by a party member.

The writ is asking the High Court to declare that the appointment of the special disciplinary committee was ultra vires, null and void and of no effect.

The defendants have ten days to respond to the writ upon the service of notice on them.

Green was expelled from the party Saturday [6 March] for gross misconduct after the committee found him guilty of making "disparaging remarks" against Hoyte following the party's October 5, 1992 general elections defeat.

Ex-Prime Minister Warns of 'Problems' for PNC

FL0703221793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1804
GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 7, CANA—Former Guyana Prime Minister Hamilton Green is warning of problems ahead for the opposition People's National Congress (PNC) from which he was expelled more than a week ago.

Green, who is challenging his expulsion in court, is a former deputy leader of the PNC and one of its chief architects during 28 unbroken years in power.

He gave his views on the party's future in a personal letter, dated February 23, to party members. A copy was obtained by CANA over the weekend.

In his letter, seen as part of his campaign to mobilise rank and file support in a determined challenge to party leader Desmond Hoyte, Green called for critical self-examination of the party and its leadership if the PNC were serious about returning to power.

"Without self-examination and self-criticism, how can we prepare the party both intellectually and organisationally for its new role in opposition", he asked.

He continued: "During this (five-year) period ahead, we must always focus on the mobilisation of our people for development as well as to defeat the (ruling) People's Progressive Party (PPP) at the next general elections".

The PNC's 28-year rule ended last October 5 with its defeat in general elections.

Green blamed Hoyte for the PNC's demise and was expelled on charges of misconduct stemming from allegations that he made disparaging remarks about the party leader.

Green's exclusion from the PNC's list of parliamentarians to serve in opposition, also helped sour relations between himself and Hoyte.

Said Green: "We are facing a party (the PPP) that has a strong base and which has full control of all the levers of and institutions of state.

"These mechanisms," he added, "will be used to their advantage and, therefore, victory for us at the next general election will be difficult but possible.

"However, I would like to unhesitatingly state that the present non-programme, non-organisation and culture of the party will never be able to dislodge the PPP," Green declared.

He listed the following among the problems at the "core of the PNC":

- "The character and quality of the party;
- "The need for new programme, new principles of management and organisation and new party culture.
- "The method of selection of the leadership of the party at national, regional and other levels and, generally, our decision-making structure.
- "Functioning mechanisms to ensure that the leadership of the party is always accountable.
- "The need for adherence to the constitution of the party"; and
- Determining "the member best suited to lead us back into government."

Green said his concern for the future of the party was "acute" when in 1991 he declined nomination to challenge Hoyte for the leadership. He had also declined to contest the leadership at the party's 1989 congress.

Green reiterated an earlier charge that while he was not without blame, Hoyte's leadership qualities had significantly contributed to the party's defeat at last year's elections.

In an obvious rebuttal of allegations from the Hoyte faction of the PNC, Green said he was "a strong advocate of free, fair and open elections."

"My objections", he added, "were to the management of a system that put us at a disadvantage."